



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 - national practices in member states

Children's Consultation Process for the Evaluation and Drafting of Regional Plans for Children's Rights

Observatory for Childhood, Youth and Youth Care, Belgium

Country(ies): Belgium

Title of practice: Children's Consultation Process for the Evaluation and Drafting of Regional Plans for Children's Rights

Main scope/theme: Child participation, democratic citizenship and human rights education, education and information on children's rights

Managing organisation(s): Observatory for Childhood, Youth and Youth Care, CEMEA asbl, the Minister in charge of the Coordination of Children's Rights for the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Eurochild

Brief description: The Governments of Wallonia and Wallonia-Brussels Federation decided to consult children in order to evaluate their action plans in regard to children's rights and also to draft the next ones. Led by a youth organisation, the consultation process will reach around 15 groups of children from all provinces of Wallonia and Brussels. These groups are selected from schools and associations, paying special attention to age distribution. Specific attention will be paid to children living in vulnerable situations. Participants will be informed about children's rights and trained in child participation. They will have the opportunity to engage in discussions about their lives and their rights. The outcomes will be presented to politicians in order to evaluate their previous action plan and to draft the next one.

Timeframe: The process is ongoing. Outcomes are expected in November 2014.

Type of activities: Consultation is organised in several steps:

- 1) Focus groups in schools and associations about children's rights
- 2) Meeting on the purpose of training and information on NPA
- 3) Focus groups in schools and associations about NPA evaluation and drafting
- 4) Dissemination of the report – presentation to the political leaders in an end event
- 5) Evaluation with participants

Results and outputs: An evaluation report of the current action plan and recommendations for future policy are expected in November 2014.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, professionals working with children (children are the direct target groups, but the outcomes of the consultation process are dedicated to decision makers and public authorities. NGOs and professionals should be involved if their associations or schools are selected for the focus groups), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations

Success factor(s): Quality of the consultation process in accordance with international standards:

- Transparent and informative
- Voluntary
- Respectful of children
- Relevant
- Child-friendly
- Inclusive
- Supported by training
- Safe and sensitive to risk
- Accountable

Estimated budget and human resources: Around 60 000 euros for the project management, but a preparatory analysis has been conducted as well. In addition, the end event should be included. Around 6 people work on the project (part-time) for one year. Joint efforts of around 10 people to support and implement the project.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 - national practices in member states

"WEB DETECTIVES"

Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Croatia

Country(ies): Croatia

Title of practice: "WEB DETECTIVES"

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly social services, education
- Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence, violence in schools, bullying, harassment and cyber bullying
- Child participation: education and information on children's rights, children in the media environment (internet, social media, etc.)

Managing organisation(s): Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, <http://www.cnzd.org/site2/>, contact person: Tomislav Ramljak, phone: +385 31 272 943, tomislav@cnzd.org

Brief description: The goal of this project is to protect children from all kinds of abuse, putting special emphasis on the prevention of online abuse and promotion of Internet safety. The "Web Detectives" project consists of a series of trainings through which children acquire basic sets of skills and knowledge needed to identify and report inappropriate content and inappropriate behaviour on the Internet. After they have successfully passed the training, they are awarded with a Web Detectives ID card that contains a unique password. This password allows them to log onto our website and fill out a report on potentially inappropriate online content and/or behaviour that they have come across while surfing the net. Every report is reviewed by a team of experts in the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and, if need be, necessary measures are taken. Children are also encouraged to pass the acquired skills and knowledge to their classmates, friends, family, etc.

Timeframe: Centre for Missing and Exploited Children started this project a few years ago and the project is still ongoing.

Type of activities: Within this project we are implementing:

- Workshops and trainings for children;
- Seminars for parents, professionals, teachers and the general public;

- Online abuse awareness raising campaigns (media, posters, flyers, brochures, video spots etc.);
- Providing online advice;
- Marking the Safer Internet Day in shopping centres;
- Online quiz (which includes questions about the safe use of the Internet);
- Other activities for the promotion of safer internet

Results and outputs:

- Manual for implementing the Web Directives trainings;
- Innovative child-friendly online reporting tool;
- Online advice tool;
- Flyers, posters, etc.;
- Online quiz;
- Video spots promoting safer Internet

Target group(s): Children and adolescents

Success factor(s): More than 500 children have successfully passed the training in more than 10 elementary schools in Osijek-Baranja County.

High media interest (numerous articles and TV shows in local and national newspapers and TV channels) and 5818 children from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully finished the quiz.

Successful cooperation with:

- The Ministry of Interior (Osijek - Baranja County Police Administration, Office of the Chief, Prevention Department)
- Osijek-Baranja County Family Centre
- Secondary School of Applied Arts and Design; Osijek
- International Forum of Solidarity – Emmaus, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Estimated budget and human resources: The budget for this project is approximately 25.000,00 euros (10 elementary schools were included with 20-40 children per school). Four staff members and 10 volunteers are working on the project. The project is funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, City of Osijek and the Croatian Employment Service.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Multidisciplinary Approach to the Protection of Traumatized and Abused Children

Child Protection Centre of Zagreb, Croatia

Country(ies): Croatia

Title of practice: Multidisciplinary approach to the protection of traumatized and abused children

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly justice, child-friendly healthcare, education
- Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence, corporal punishment, domestic violence, bullying, harassment and cyber bullying

Managing organisation(s): Child Protection Centre of Zagreb, <http://www.poliklinika-djeca.hr/english/>, contact person: Gordana Buljan Flander, phone: +38598453114, gordana.flander@poliklinika-djeca.hr

Brief description: The key purpose of the work of the Child Protection Centre is providing multidisciplinary help and support to children with various traumatic experiences, which include neglected and abused children, children at risk of abuse as well as providing support to their families. The primary activities of the Centre include assessment and treatment of children and families, research and scientific work, publishing, raising public awareness, education and training of professionals from other institutions, as well as forensic evaluations ordered by courts. The multidisciplinary team of the Centre consists of psychologists, psychiatrists, a paediatrician, social workers, rehabilitators and social educators, nurses and a jurist, who all work together to provide protection and support to traumatised children.

Timeframe: Started in 2003, ongoing (part of the healthcare system).

Type of activities:

- 1) Assessments and treatment of children and their families, which include individual assessments and diagnosis of the difficulties that children experience, planning and conducting individual treatments according to the child's needs, organising and

- conducting group psychotherapy for children, support and socialisation groups, as well as support groups and personal development groups for parents;
- 2) Multidisciplinary team work and supervision - working in multidisciplinary teams, respecting the specific knowledge and skills of every professional and coordinating for the benefit of the client, attending case reviews, promoting cooperation with other child protection institutions;
 - 3) Training professionals from other child protection institutions in the issues of child abuse and neglect, treatment/therapy of psycho-traumatised children, forensic interviewing and forensic evaluation of abused children, child development, etc.;
 - 4) Continuous research and scientific work with the aim of expanding the knowledge in the field of psycho-traumatisation and victimisation of children, analysing cases in the everyday work of the Centre (recent research topics include experiences and behaviour of children on the Internet and Facebook, exposure of children to abuse via the Internet, bullying, prevalence of child abuse and neglect, etc.);
 - 5) Raising public awareness by publishing handbooks and leaflets, continuous communication with the public at large via the media and the website;
 - 6) Preparing forensic evaluations ordered by courts and conducted by permanent court evaluators, expert witnesses in the fields of psychiatry and psychology, as well as encouraging judges to interview children on the Centre's premises, so that the whole procedure could be audio and video recorded and used as evidence in court procedures.

Results and outputs: 15 publications, in the form of handbooks and leaflets regarding child development and child abuse (e.g. "It happened, what now?", "Attachment and violent behaviour in youth - why is love important?", "Sexual development of the child", "Bullying among children", "Cyberbullying", "Supporting the mourning child", "Hyperactive child", "25 questions (and answers) for professionals working with abused and neglected children", "Child neglect", "Witnessing family violence" etc.) free of charge for parents, children and professionals (in collaboration with the City of Zagreb), 300 000 copies printed and distributed, also available online: <http://www.poliklinika-djeca.hr/english/publications/>

Target groups: Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children, public at large

Success factor(s): Since 2003, 11 372 children and families have been included in the project; 300,000 copies of the publications have been printed and distributed free of charge; ongoing cooperation with other national and international child protection institutions, such as child welfare centres, health institutions, police, courts, schools, kindergartens, parents, doctors, NGOs; education provided to over 200 volunteers in Brave for the child helpline; Multidisciplinary Team Award in 2008, awarded by The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN); signing up for the Council of Europe Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children in 2013

Estimated budget and human resources: The estimated budget is about 900 000 euros per year, financed by the Croatian Health Insurance Fund and the City of Zagreb. The Center currently has 34 employees.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Involving Children and Young People in the Development of the Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Study (2014)

Department of Children and Youth Affairs in partnership with the HBSC Team in the National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Country(ies): Ireland

Title of practice: Involving children and young people in the development of the Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Study (2014), Ireland

Main scope/theme: Child participation

Managing organisation(s): Department of Children and Youth Affairs in partnership with the HBSC Team in the National University of Ireland, Galway, www.dcy.gov.ie, contact person: Anne O'Donnell, phone: 00353863837320, anne_odonnell@dcya.gov.ie

Brief description: Ireland became the first country in all 43 WHO participating countries to involve children and young people in the development of the Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Survey, 2014. In order to ensure the most meaningful participation of children and young people, they were involved in the identification of domains and questions for the Survey and will be involved at all further stages of the Survey process. Workshops were conducted with different groups of children and young people to identify domains and questions that they themselves considered to be important aspects of their health and wellbeing.

Timeframe: Started in October 2012. New domains and questions developed by children and young people are currently being included in the HBSC Ireland Survey to be conducted during 2014. The partners in this initiative will work together to develop mechanisms for children and young people to continue to be involved at all stages in the Survey process.

Type of activities: Workshops and consultations

Results and outputs: New domains and questions developed by children and young people are currently being included in the HBSC Ireland Survey to be conducted during 2014.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (academics, researchers, teachers, health professionals, mental health professionals, politicians), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations, public at large

Success factor(s): Involving children and young people in the development of an international research instrument represents a radically different approach to development of a national survey than is normally used. Domains on 'Having fun' and 'Parents, family and wellbeing' were the top choices of the 8-12 year old children and have never before been included in the HBSC Survey. The 13-18 year old young people identified 'Independence' and 'Diversity and Individuality' as priorities in their lives and neither of these domains have been included previously in the HBSC Study. The issue of 'stereotyping' strongly emerges under both domains, which in itself is interesting information about the lives of young people. The inclusion of new domains and questions in the HBSC Ireland Study in 2014 will provide valuable information on aspects of the lives of children and young people never before explored in the Survey. This information will assist in the development of policies and services that meet the needs of children and young people in aspects of their lives that are important to them. The outcomes of the process confirm the value of involving children and young people as stakeholders in the HBSC Survey and challenge researchers and policy-makers to consider involving children and young people in the development and design of other research related to their lives and behaviour.

Estimated budget and human resources: Budget - approximately 8,000 €. All individuals working on this initiative are already employed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), a child participation service contracted by the DCYA and the National University.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Rescinded the Statute of Limitations Regarding Sex Offenses Committed Against the Child

Incest Trauma Centre – Belgrade, Serbia

Country(ies): Serbia

Title of practice: Rescinded the Statute of Limitations regarding sex offenses committed against the child - one of the results of the Incest Trauma Centre - Belgrade, Serbia.

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly justice
- Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence

Managing organization(s): Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade, www.incestrauamacentar.org.rs, contact person: Dusica Popadic / Ljiljana Bogavac, phone: 00 381 63 752 12 54, itcentar@EUnet.rs

Brief description: On April 8th, 2013, the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Initiative of the Incest Trauma Centre - Belgrade regarding rescinding the Statute of Limitations in connection with the sex offenses against the child. The Initiative was recognised and supported by the Parliamentary Committee for Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality, Women's Parliamentary Network, the Parliamentary Committee for the Rights of the Child, all caucuses, and the Government of Serbia (listed in the order of procedural steps). After the United Kingdom, the Republic of Serbia became the second country in Europe where there is no Statute of Limitations regarding sex offenses committed against children. This changed earlier legal practices where, according to the Serbian law, just six years after the last incident of sexual abuse, the child sexual assault survivor was losing every right to prosecute the offender. Now, the law recognises the long-term effects of sexual trauma in children and provides opportunity for survivors to prosecute offenders when feeling capable - with sufficient psychic strength and social power - to be as equal as possible participants in the criminal prosecution. In this way, the State became an ally in the recovery of survivors and sent out a clear message to offenders that there are no timeframes when it comes to being brought to justice. The Incest Trauma Centre - Belgrade (it recently marked its 20th anniversary being active in the field of Sexual Assault) has been the national partner of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, officially appointed to lead the "1 IN 5" campaign against child sexual assault in the Republic of Serbia. The campaign "1 IN 5" in

Serbia is being implemented with the financial support of the European Union from the programme “European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights” for 2011.

Timeframe: November 2012-April 2013

Type of activities: Ongoing lobbying and campaigning that included workshops and consultations with parliamentarians.

Results and outputs: Brochure that includes factsheets and educational articles

Target group(s): Decision makers

Success factor(s): The Incest Trauma Centre - Belgrade is a trusted expert organisation in the field of sexual assault in Serbia. It has 20 years of working experience and co-operation with various stakeholders, and the Centre provides full disclosure of its previous practices and results.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Comprehensive Social Inclusion Programme for Victims of Human Trafficking
NGO Atina, Serbia

Country(ies): Serbia

Title of practice: Comprehensive social inclusion programme for victims of human trafficking

Main scope/theme:

- Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence, trafficking of children
- Children in vulnerable situations: children 'on the move' (refugees, asylum-seeking, unaccompanied and separated, internally displaced and stateless children), Roma children

Managing organisation(s): NGO Atina, <http://atina.org.rs/>, contact person: Marijana Savic, phone: +38111 322 00 30, marijana.savic@atina.org.rs

Brief description: The key objectives of the comprehensive reintegration programme for victims of human trafficking are: the establishment of a structured mechanism for long-term social inclusion assistance to children and youth victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation regardless of their place of residence; access to long-term quality reintegration assistance throughout Serbia; inclusion and active participation of children and youth victims in the design and implementation of their individual reintegration programmes; their full physical and psycho-social recovery and empowerment; and introduction of evaluation standards to provide for the adaptability of the programme to the beneficiaries' needs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Type of activities: The key objectives of the programme are achieved by delivering the following services to victims: assistance in fulfilling basic needs (including accommodation); assistance in obtaining related rights (from obtaining personal documents and cooperation with relevant institutions, to enrolment into the educational system and labour markets); psychosocial, legal and medical assistance; family mediation and counselling; and the provision of all other relevant forms and means of support. The activities are arranged into the following categories: 1) solving the most critical problems upon entering the programme and ad hoc responding to emerging

problems; 2) determining beneficiaries to be included in the programmes according to the key areas; 3) establishing deadlines for assessing beneficiaries' statuses and setting goals for and with each individual beneficiary; 4) creating individual plans together with beneficiaries; 5) monitoring and evaluating the progress in all areas; 6) contacting government institutions and NGOs involved in or relevant to the programme; 7) assessing the outcomes in each case after completion of the programme; 8) following-up on cases after the official completion of the programme. In addition to directly assisting the victims of human trafficking, Atina organises, as a separate programme, trainings for professionals from different fields to build the capacity of institutions and organisations to provide adequate support to victims of human trafficking. Within the capacity building of the institutions and policy development, Atina participates in the research and analysis of human trafficking and similar phenomena, as well as in the process of formulation of possible mechanisms and good practices in the field of social inclusion.

Results and outputs: NGO Atina was chosen by Child Recovery, UHI Centre for Rural Childhood, Scotland, to organise consultations with youth and children, Atina's beneficiaries. For that purposes consultations were conducted with nine beneficiaries of NGO Atina, and the majority of them emphasised the importance of family counselling, mediation and assistance they received within Atina's programmes as a key point in their development. They said this kind of support helped them realise that they are not alone in the world, and that they have been supported in their decision-making regardless of whether their choices were good or bad. Consultations with children, beneficiaries of NGO Atina, were organised in order to help professionals to better understand the effectiveness of interventions designed to support children, what children and young people think about reintegration, and the 'changes' that are most important to them. This served as a good monitoring tool for Atina's employees who were able to see their role in the process of social inclusion of beneficiaries, as well as to receive feedback from them about the programmes Atina is implementing.

In 2012 -2013, a joint program of Save the Children, Atina and Group 484, entitled "Setting an Agenda for Child Oriented Social Reform in Republic of Serbia," funded by the European Commission, Open Society Fund in Serbia and Save the Children, was implemented. The overall objective of the action was to provide support to children on the move in Serbia. Although the state has a legislative framework for the protection of children's rights and provides services to children at risk, it is of utmost importance to improve and enable the implementation of the legislation. The objectives are to strengthen CSOs and institutions with child protection mandates and to develop child-friendly assistance, services and policies grounded in the best interest of children on the move. In the reporting period, a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics and consequences that children on the move face in Serbia, complemented by mapping of services and other programmes available to children on the move, has been drafted. Research activities became an important part of the project's implementation. The research phase was focused on identifying current trends that children on the move face in Serbia. A comprehensive analysis of the characteristics, nature and consequences of children's movement was implemented and recommendations were given to governments for the improvement of the position of this group. Research methodology: three focus groups were organised as well as ten in-depth interviews with professionals. Desk research was finalised. Within the research activity a consultation with boys and girls was conducted where 43 children were consulted. Five case studies were drafted. The study "Children on the move - Status and programmes of support and protection of children on the move in the Republic of Serbia" is attached to this document.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children, decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations

Success factor(s): Only in the Republic of Serbia in the last three years there were 259 identified trafficking victims, most of whom were youth, women and children. The reasons for human trafficking, taking into account existing practices in Serbia, can be described by all aspects of social exclusion - from material poverty and unavailability of healthcare and education, to gender-based violence and discriminatory and oppressive practices. According to official data, more than 50% of human trafficking victims are children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years. Over 90% of juvenile victims are Roma children. Children who live and/or work on the street are recognised as the most vulnerable among the vulnerable. In addition, there is a reasonable suspicion that 80% of the children who live and/or work on the street are actively exposed to some kind of exploitation. Beneficiaries of the project for sustainable social inclusion are the victims and potential victims of human trafficking, including child victims and potential victims, citizens of Republic of Serbia, victims of sexual and labour exploitation, forced begging and forced marriages, as well as victims' families and close neighbours who are indirectly affected. Beneficiaries of the programme are victims of trafficking on the territory of the Republic of Serbia and they receive assistance in the Belgrade area (if there is need for accommodation in transition houses or alternative accommodation) and/or in the municipality of origin or residence. Only in 2013, the following services were provided to beneficiaries of the Atina's reintegration programme: safe accommodation, assistance in fulfilment of basic life needs, medical assistance, psychological assistance and counselling, legal assistance and counselling, assistance in formal/alternative education and job placement, assistance in social skills' building, family assistance and family mediation and counselling, individual and group experiential support (peer) and other specific services. All mentioned activities have been implemented within three phases of the reintegration process, namely: crises intervention, transition phase and reintegration/social inclusion. Atina has assisted 72 children and youth by providing different services and has achieved a significant progress in supporting beneficiaries through the reintegration process. Bearing in mind that the most of the beneficiaries are from different parts of Serbia, they were assisted by field support teams. Atina has provided medical assistance (doctors, specialists, laboratory analysis, minor health interventions, gynaecological testing, HIV and STD tests) for 43 youth and children, psychological assistance (individual and group therapy, counselling, thematic workshops, crisis interventions, online sessions, family mediation, partners therapy) for 52 youth and children, legal assistance and counselling (trial preparations, providing legal counsellors, assistance during trials) for 21 youth and children, assistance in providing food, clothes, hygiene kits, household necessities (heating, appliances, basic furniture) to 67 children and youth, assistance in skills development (literacy courses, professional orientation courses, job interview workshops, courses for hairdressers and beauticians, jewellery workshops) to 29 youth and children. More than 100 peer support activities were organised. Every activity, planned and implemented by NGO Atina, has been discussed and prepared in partnership with all beneficiaries. In the planning and implementation processes, beneficiaries who had previous experience showed great interest in participating in the planning sessions. Nevertheless, all beneficiaries participated in the development and revisions of all individual reintegration plans and programmes. A significant improvement in service quality and high level of motivation, competence, responsibility and rationality of the beneficiaries participating in the process was achieved. Programme evaluation is predominantly implemented in cooperation with beneficiaries through questionnaires, focus groups and interviews. NGO Atina's case managers organise regular weekly meetings with beneficiaries in order to discuss all aspects of the social inclusion programme. Experience has shown that monitoring and assessment could be considered as one of the essential components of the victims' overall empowerment. Individual social inclusion plans serve as a good monitoring tool as well. Every two months, Atina's

professionals together with beneficiaries analyse related plans and revise them in order to meet newly identified and expressed needs of victims. In respect to the creation of the mechanism for victim's assistance (one of the most significant accomplishments), networks of professionals were developed on a case-by-case-basis. Atina supported local networks in the implementation of a case management system of care. Over 56 consultative meetings and case conferences initiated by Atina were organised on a case-by-case basis just during 2013. In order to further develop this mechanism, Atina has created the programme "Local communities against trafficking", which is approved for funding by the European Commission. The project is implemented in seven local communities (Subotica, Novi Sad, Sremska Mitrovica, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Nis and Vranje) with the aim to improve the capacity of local communities and civil society organisations to effectively participate in the prevention of trafficking and the protection of victims of trafficking. In addition, the project will contribute to the networking and strengthening of relevant local institutions fighting against human trafficking in order to provide better support to vulnerable groups. Seven Local Stakeholder Networks were established. MoUs are signed by all members of the local networks. The networks consist of representatives of the Police Department, the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office, the Centre for Social Welfare, Red Cross professionals, representatives of healthcare institutions, a branch of the National Employment Agency, Youth office, schools, civil society organisations, and local authorities. This network involves multi-sectorial cooperation, and its goal is to form clear procedures for the prevention of human trafficking that will contribute to better protection of victims, and at the same time provide information to professionals and ordinary citizens on the meaning of human trafficking. State officials consider Atina's project "Local communities against trafficking" a pilot project. They will start to develop networks in 10 other cities in Serbia.

Estimated budget and human resources: In 2013, Atina's total budget was approximately 150 000 euros. There are seven full-time employees, 15 occasionally engaged and 4 volunteers working on this project.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Publication of a Vade-Mecum on "Children's participation in public decision-making"

Observatory for Childhood, Youth and Youth Care, Belgium

Country(ies): Belgium

Title of practice: Publication of a vade-mecum on 'Children's participation in public decision-making'

Main scope/theme: Child participation, democratic citizenship and human rights education, education and information on children's rights

Managing organisation(s): Observatory for Childhood, Youth and Youth Care, Eurochild, the Minister in charge of the Coordination of Children's Rights for the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, <http://www.oejaj.cfwb.be/>, phone: +32 (0) 2 413 37 65, observatoire.enfance-jeunesse@cfwb.be

Brief description: A comparative qualitative analysis of 15 internationally selected case studies in which children have participated in public decision-making has been carried out. The outcomes of this evaluation (based on the international standards related to children's participation) have been integrated into a vade-mecum. This vade-mecum aims to be a guide on how to implement child participation in public decision-making. It is intended for persons working in public decision-making, including local, regional and national level authorities, but also for NGOs (aisbl). The vade-mecum explains how to engage children in public decision-making processes and what criteria to take into account. It also includes some practical exercises, guidance and references to the public decision-making processes.

Timeframe: The comparative analysis started in December 2012 and the French version of the vade-mecum has been published in February 2014 and is available online (<http://www.oejaj.cfwb.be/index.php?id=11312>). The English version should be published in mid-2014.

Type of activities: A conference has been held to present the vade-mecum to local politicians. Local children's councils have been informed about the publication.

Results and outputs: A handbook: Vade-Mecum about 'Children's participation in public decision-making'.

Target group(s): Professionals working with children (the vade-mecum is dedicated to decision makers but also professionals working with children who want to be involved in the decision processes), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations

Success factors:

- Articulating the outcomes of various analyses and researches with practical examples in order to reach the professionals working with children
- The handbook must be really didactic and easy to read

Estimated budget and human resources: Around 30 000 euros. One intern working on the comparative analysis; one expert – writing, and joint efforts of around 10 persons for the monitoring and dissemination.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Growing with Children's Rights

Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska/B&H

Country(ies): Republic of Srpska/Bosnia and Herzegovina

Title of practice: Growing with children's rights

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly healthcare, child-friendly social services, family law and family policies, education
- Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence, corporal punishment, domestic violence, violence in schools, bullying, harassment and cyber bullying
- Children in vulnerable situations: children in alternative care, children with disabilities, children in detention, children 'on the move' (refugees, asylum-seeking, unaccompanied and separated, internally displaced and stateless children), Roma children
- Child participation

Managing organisation(s): Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska/B&H, www.djeca.rs.ba, contact person: Nada Grahovac, phone: 00 387 51 222 420, info@djeca.rs.ba

Brief description: Based on the initiative of the Ombudsman for Children, competent Ministries (Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Internal Affairs) have signed the Protocol on Proceedings in Cases of Violence, Abuse and Child Neglecting. The Protocol prescribes mandatory standards and procedures for all competent bodies in case they are reported or if they learn in any other way that a child has been exposed to any form of violence (physical, psychological, sexual, cyber bullying, abuse, exploitation) or neglect (use of alcohol, beggary, abandoning school, etc.). Protocol obliges to maintaining appropriate records in different sectors, and the results of established records (databases) is the first Annual Report on different forms of violence, abuse and child neglecting that will be published this year.

Timeframe: Initiative for passing the Protocol was made by the Ombudsman for Children in July, 2012 and it was signed on November 20th, 2012 on the International Day of Children's Rights. The first Annual Report on Violence, Abuse and Child Neglecting that will integrate data

from all competent ministries is expected this year. The application and monitoring of the Protocol is ongoing and it does not have time limitation.

Type of activities: In cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport, on November 19th, 2013 Round Table "Application of Protocol in Proceedings in Cases of Violence, Abuse and Child Neglecting in Practice" was held in Banja Luka, Doboj, Bijeljina and Foca. Participants, representatives of centres for social work, police, schools, health institutions, local communities, non-government organisations and children shared their experiences and all have concluded that the Protocol has advanced the cooperation between competent institutions. During 2013, at the workshops "Do we know what violence is?" that the Ombudsman for Children implements every year, students from more than 30 schools were introduced to the Protocol and information on how and to whom violence can be reported. During school visits, meetings were held with schools' management on some practical applications of the Protocol and the need for raising children's awareness to report violence was emphasised. During the training seminar for young advisors of the Ombudsman for Children "Right to protection from violence and discrimination" in October 2013, the Institution spoke of violence in general, but it also put an accent on introducing the Protocol on Proceedings in Cases of Violence, Abuse and Child Neglecting to young advisors. As peer educators, young advisors shared acquired knowledge about forms of violence, its recognition and reporting through 43 workshops in 16 schools.

Results and outputs: The Protocol on Proceedings in Cases of Violence, Abuse and Child Neglecting is available in electronic form on the webpages of the Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska, Ministry of Education and Culture, certain centres for social work, and some schools. The Ministry of Education and Culture has delivered an electronic version of the Protocol to all primary and secondary schools. The text of the Protocol has been published in the Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska, number 82/13. Right after it was signed, the Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska has printed 2000 publications that contain the text of the Protocol.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (protocol obliges all competent institutions and individuals to recognize and report cases of violence and to provide support for the victim and his/her family), decision makers

Success factor(s): The Protocol on Proceedings in Cases of Violence, Abuse and Child Neglecting promoted a new and enhanced cooperation among different institutions and their mutual child protection activities. It also has indicated the need for implementing prevention programs within the education system and educating employees about all subjects related to child protection. The initiative to promote programmes of prevention of different forms of violence, abuse and child neglect that are an integral part of school curriculum (so children could receive relevant information in their schools, from their earliest age and adapted to their needs and capabilities, about different forms of violence, its recognition, consequences on child's development, reporting, the right to assistance and support, etc.) is accepted, and, currently, there are ongoing activities on changing the schools' curriculums.

Estimated budget and human resources: This initiative did not have an assigned budget. All of the expenses were covered by the Institution's regular funds. Save the Children paid for the printing of the publications.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Children Right to Get Free Education in Latvia *Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia*

Country(ies): Latvia

Title of practice: Children right to get free education in Latvia

Main scope/theme: Education and information on children's rights

Managing organisation(s): Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia, <http://www.tiesibsargs.lv/en/homepage>, contact person: Anna Haruzika, anna.haruzika@tiesibsargs.lv

Brief description: Accordance to article 112 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, everyone has the right to education. The State shall ensure that everyone may acquire primary and secondary education at no charge. Primary education shall be compulsory. Before August 2013, the right to free education was not fully ensured in Latvia. Even though the legal regulation stipulated that the state and local governments should provide educational materials, in practice, parents were forced to buy everything necessary for their children. Thus, the actual situation did not ensure children's equal rights and opportunities to obtain education. In 2011, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia started working on resolving this issue in order to change the illegal practice. In August 2013, new amendments to the Education Law of the Republic of Latvia came into force. The amendments indicated precisely what should be bought by parents (e.g. clothes, shoes, stationary), and what kind of educational materials should be provided by schools. As a result, additional state and local funding was provided to all schools in Latvia.

Timeframe: From June 2011 until October 2013

Type of activities: Establishment of Advisory Board on issues related to access to education; involvement of the society in reporting illegal practises; analysis of legal regulations; requests to provide information; proposals for law amendments; reports to relevant institutions; personal consultations; trainings.

Results and outputs: New amendments to the Education Law came into force. Change in illegal practice (for now parents do not have to buy educational materials).

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, public authorities and civil servants, public at large

Success factor(s): Active role of the media, tremendous support from the society, cooperation with stakeholders

Estimated budget and human resources: It is not possible to specify the precise budget. Two people were working on the project, namely: the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia, Juris Jansons, and the Head of the Children's Rights Division of the Ombudsman office, Laila Grāvere.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Stopp! Min kropp (Stop! My body) – Campaign to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children

Rädda Barnen (Save the Children), Sweden

Country(ies): Sweden

Title of practice: Stopp! Min kropp (Stop! My body) – Campaign to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children

Main scope/theme: Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence

Managing organisation(s): Rädda Barnen (Save the Children, Sweden), www.raddabarnen.se, contact person: Karin Fagerholm / Anna Fairbrass, phone: +46-8 698 90 00, karin.fagerholm@rb.se / anna.fairbrass@rb.se

Brief description: In September 2013, Save the Children Sweden (SCS) launched a national campaign against sexual abuse of children. The main objective of the campaign is to raise awareness about the current situation of children in Sweden and internationally. By putting sexual abuse of children on the agenda, we can put more pressure on the government to take the necessary steps needed to improve support for abused children. The campaign is divided into three parts; an ad campaign (print and film) focusing on the fact that most of these violations occur in a place that's supposed to be safe for children, and the perpetrator is often someone they know and trust. The ad campaign shows the witness to these crimes, the child's teddy bear, covering its eyes and ears. The other part of the campaign is information on the website, with up to date numbers, examples from our work in Sweden and abroad, where to turn if you suspect a child being abused, etc. The third part of the campaign is prevention by strengthening children. Save the Children Sweden has produced a handbook for adults on how to talk to children about the body, boundaries when it comes to physical contact with other people and sexual abuse, written by our psychologist and head of the SCS Centre for children in vulnerable situations, Anna Norlén. The handbook aims to strengthen children's feeling of the body being something valuable, something to protect and take care of and something the child has the right to decide over. That there are boundaries for what other people are allowed to do with your body and what you can do to other people. That it is ok to say no to physical contact even to people they know. And that children have the right to (and should) tell bad secrets even if someone has told them not to. At SCS we know that many parents find this to be a difficult topic, and that they,

many times, do not know where to turn if they suspect something bad has happened to their child or someone they know. The handbook is divided into short chapters, starting with an overview on why it is important to talk to children about this. The "how" chapters are divided into parts for young children, children in school and teenagers, as both the children's development and current situation, as well as the approach to children differs depending on the age. The last part of the handbook is a short chapter on how to talk to your child if you suspect something, and where to turn with your concern. The handbook was launched on October 2nd, 2013 and it became an immediate success. It's been read and downloaded by the thousand. The printed version has been ordered in thousands by private people, companies working with children, and government agencies. The handbook has also had great media coverage by the biggest national news magazines, TV and radio stations.

Timeframe: Start: September 2013 - ongoing

Type of activities: Handbook for parents, online campaign, TV ads, ads in printed media, press activities, and some trainings.

Results and outputs: Handbook for parents, ads (printed and video)

Target group(s): Parents, professionals working with children, public authorities and civil servants, public at large

Success factor(s): The handbook was an immediate success. It's been read and downloaded by the thousand. In addition, the printed version has been ordered in thousands by private people, companies working with children and government agencies. The handbook has also had great media coverage by the biggest national news magazines, TV and radio stations.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Guide to Good Practice in the Field of Independent Living Skills of Abandoned Children and Young People
Saint Stelian Association, Romania

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: The title of the initiative is "Guide to good practice in the field of independent living skills of abandoned children and young people", and it is being conducted by Saint Stelian Association in partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Giurgiu.

Main scope/theme: Children in vulnerable situations, children in alternative care

Managing organisation(s): Saint Stelian Association, www.sfstelian.org, contact person: Irina Dragoi, phone: 0213359880, sfs@rdsmail.ro

Brief description: The main objective is to create, develop and implement a set of measures and procedures designed to lead to the formation, development and improvement of independent life skills of children and young people in our DGASPC.

Timeframe: This initiative began in 2009 and lasted until 2010.

Type of activities: To ensure visibility of the project, audio-visual campaigns (radio and TV) were conducted. In order to develop practical skills and competencies, workshops with beneficiaries were organised as well. For the training of the instructors, educational courses were held in the town of Greaca, Giurgiu County.

Results and outputs: As a result of this project, a good practices manual was compiled and published.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents

Success factor(s): The factors that led to the success of the initiative are: the efficient cooperation with stakeholders, involvement of specialists, and sufficient financial resources.

Estimated budget and human resources: The persons involved in this project were employees of the association, employees of the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Giurgiu, and volunteers.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Educate – Do Not Punish

Save the Children, Italy, Sweden, Lithuania and Romania

Country(ies): Italy leading, Sweden, Lithuania and Romania included

Title of practice: Educate – do not punish!

Main scope/theme: Eliminating violence against children, corporal punishment

Managing organisation(s): Save the Children (Italy leading, Sweden, Lithuania and Romania included), www.savethechildren.it, contact person: Arianna Saulini, phone: +39 06 4807001, arianna.saulini@savethechildren.it

Brief description: Save the Children received financial support from the European Commission Daphne III Programme to carry out a project to protect children from physical and humiliating punishment by supporting the inclusion of the explicit ban on physical and humiliating punishment in all settings, including the family, in the political agenda and debate and to prevent corporal punishment through actions raising public awareness about positive parenting. This two-year project was coordinated by Save the Children Italy and its three partners, respectively: Save the Children Organizations in Romania, Lithuania and Sweden. The project was implemented in these four European countries, which have different legislative, administrative, social and educational measures related to corporal punishment. Specifically, in Italy and Lithuania corporal punishment is still not banned in the family context. In Romania, even if corporal punishment is banned by the law, it is still socially accepted, which is a considerable problem. The objective of the project is to prevent physical and humiliating punishment in all settings by implementing actions raising awareness about positive parenting through the development of various awareness raising materials, such as: leaflets, posters, TV and radio spots, targeting the public opinion, parents, paediatricians, teachers, politicians, and relevant institutions on both national and local levels. Moreover, a re-adaptation of the existing guidelines on positive parenting was produced with the aim to make parents thinking about positive educational approaches in their relationship with their children. As a result of the "Educate do not Punish" project, awareness raising materials on promoting the ban on corporal punishment and positive parenting have been developed and tested both on a European level and in the national context where the project was implemented. The project's tailored message targeting public opinion, parents, professionals working with children, and politicians impacted all of

these categories by prompting them to change their approach to corporal punishment. The Guide on Positive Parenting impacted parents by presenting the importance of positive approaches in interacting with their children and providing them with a clear guidance. It impacted professionals by providing them with a new tool in their work with parents. All of the produced materials are completely accessible on the partners' websites, and it is recommended to promote them both locally and nationally. The partners based in Italy and Lithuania, two countries that have not outlawed corporal punishment, developed their awareness raising materials with key messages intended to lead to legislative reform. Both the Lithuanian and Italian versions of the leaflet include references to key messages from relevant stakeholders, such as the Council of Europe. Italy and Lithuania produced and distributed 6000 leaflets in their respective languages with specific reference to the national context (3000 in Italian and 3000 in Lithuanian). Italy, Romania and Lithuania produced and launched a TV spot based on a common key message. In Italy, the following materials were distributed: 10.000 indoor posters and almost 655.000 leaflets were printed and distributed. In Lithuania: 8000 leaflets were distributed during several events, 500 posters with size of 120x180cm and 10 posters with size of 6x3m were used for outdoor advertisements, and 5000 posters with size of 45x58cm were distributed. In Italy, the Spot was awarded first prize in the Premio Mediastars competition in the social and not-for-profit category (Categoria Sociali-No profit), TV and cinema section. The spot also came in second in the Social – Television section. In Lithuania, the Spot is nominated for the best Social / Non-Profit Video at the popular event, Lithuanian Advertising Festival ADrenalinas 2013, usually attracting a lot of media attention. Save the Children Italy conducted a survey in March 2012 (IPSOS, a very well know research institute working on public policy issues, attitudes and behaviours of citizens, on behalf of Save the Children, interviewed a sample of 1000 parents with at least one child aged 3-16 and a sample of 250 children aged 11-16) to update the data collected in a large public opinion poll conducted in 2009. The survey was carried out to understand the parents' opinion with regard to the use of physical or humiliating punishment of their children. In May 2012, a survey was carried out on a specific target group of professionals, namely paediatricians. A sample of 436 paediatricians, members of the SIP, were interviewed to understand their point of view on corporal punishment both as individuals and as professionals working closely with families. In Romania, a survey built on both quantitative and qualitative methodology was conducted. All samples were relevant on a national level (more than 1400 families and more than 1200 children were interviewed). In Lithuania, since there was no recent data, Save the Children Lithuania conducted a broad survey at the beginning of the project. The survey involved parents and children – in total, 1004 parents (with at least one child) and 540 children were interviewed using questionnaires. In Sweden, as anticipated by the Commission, a qualitative study was conducted through three focus groups involving professionals working in child healthcare, pre-school and school (8 - 10 in each group). The aim of this report was to gain knowledge about how mandated reporters in different professional fields reason and act when there is a suspicion for maltreatment of children aged 0-12. In January, 2012, a guide to building healthy parent-child relationships was produced in English. Although the guide is a re-adaptation of existing materials, it is a unique product specifically thought in the European context. The guide provides a clear guidance on positive parenting and affirms the unacceptable character of corporal and humiliating punishment. It aims at making parents aware of the importance of positive approaches to interacting with their children. Save the Children Sweden and Save the Children Romania organised child participation activities as specified in the Progress Report. A total number of 161 children took part in the 6 consultation events. Children identified key messages that were included in the awareness raising materials produced by all partners, especially in the Guide on Positive Parenting. Leaflets for parents and professionals that summarised the Guidelines (Wstr. 3 act. 2) were produced by partners based in Italy, Romania, Lithuania, while

partners based in Sweden developed brochures. Furthermore, seminars and training modules for parents and specialist were carried out in Sweden, Lithuania and Romania. Partners organized 7 roundtables and a workshop as envisaged in the action grant agreement that involved politicians, parents and professionals in order to promote public debate about the ban on corporal punishments. The findings and results of the project were disseminated on a European level during the final event organised in Brussels on February 20th 2013: "Europe: a corporal punishment free zone - banning corporal punishment and supporting positive parenting in all European countries." The conference marked the conclusion of the project and provided a forum to share and discuss projects achievements, results and materials with relevant international experts on corporal and humiliating punishment against children. The event was also intended to foster a proactive discussion on the ban on corporal punishment and a positive parenting approach within the EU. Partners drafted the "Declaration of intent for a corporal punishment free Europe for MEPs" to commit themselves to support actions and raise awareness of the issue. It was signed by 70 MEPs. This action was supported by the Global Initiative to End All Corporate Punishment of Children and by the Belgium Ombudsman for Children Rights.

Timeframe: 2011-2013

Type of activities: Information campaigns (including ad campaigns and video ads), surveys, seminars, training modules, round tables.

Results and outputs: TV spots, leaflets, posters, radio spots, guides on positive parenting, brochures, training modules.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children, decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, public at large

Success factor(s): A number of professionals and decision makers were reached in each country. A large number of leaflets and posters were distributed in each country. Positive feedback from the target groups was received. A large number of trainings/round tables/seminars were organised in each country. See final report of project for more details.

Estimated budget and human resources: The project was made possible by EU funding.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Early Years Programme – Strengthening Parental Role: Early Childhood Development Support Centres in Serbia
Serbian Parents Network, Serbia

Country(ies): Serbia

Title of practice: Early Years Programme – Strengthening Parental Role: Early Childhood Development Support Centres in Serbia

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly social services, education
- Children in vulnerable situations: children with disabilities, Roma children

Managing organisation(s): Serbian Parents Network, <http://www.roditelj.org/> contact person: Dragana Soćanin, phone: + 381 64 3292 040, dsocanin@gmail.com

Brief description: The main goal of the Early Childhood Development Support Centres - EDC programme is to support positive parenting, thus to ensure stimulative developmental environment for children age 0-6 who are not enrolled in kindergartens or any other early development programme, paying particular attention to children with disabilities. Providing stimulating environment for optimal child development has been one of the most important factors for cognitive, emotional, physical and social development in early childhood. Although the Strategy for Early Development and Preschool Education in Serbia identified the development of early education and parental support centres as one of the priorities in this area, up until 2012 there were no available programmes in Serbia specifically targeting the strengthening of early childhood parenting competencies. Generally, there are different activities focusing mainly on cultural, entertainment, recreational and sport events for children. However, enrolment in these activities requires parents to pay a fee. According to the estimations of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, only 41.36% of children are enrolled in preschool programmes, and almost 14,000 children are on a waiting list for day care/kindergarten. More than 280,000 children up to 5.5 years of age stay out of the early education system until they are enrolled in the mandatory preschool programme. Paradoxically, the children of unemployed parents, who come from poor socio-economic backgrounds, are not on the priority list for enrolment; therefore, they remain underprivileged and excluded from stimulating educational programmes despite the fact that they are precisely the children who need those programmes the

most. Another problem is that Roma children and children with disabilities are on the priority list for enrolment in kindergartens, but the pre-school system does not offer general support to these families so they remain invisible. Here we see the important role of the CSOs, in cooperation with local institutions, which can contribute to the overall outreach strategy and provide significant support to the families and help with the enrolment of these children. The problem applies to almost all communities in Serbia. In 2012, with the support of the UNICEF office in Belgrade, Serbian Parents Network established Early Development Support Centres (EDC) in Belgrade and Nis. The implementation of the EDC programme was based on the principles of the Canadian Ontario Early Development Centre programme. In the first phase of the project, an intervention model was developed and adapted in accordance with the specific needs of the EDC users, parents and caregivers, which were continuously assessed during the project implementation. What was recognised as necessary was the development of specific programmes for parents of children age 0-5, and especially children with disabilities who are usually not included in the pre-school activities and parents do not possess the specific knowledge, experience and competence to stimulate and educate their children. Moreover, children from marginalised groups (socially deprived children, children from rural areas, members of ethnic minorities) do not have access to stimulative settings; they do not have opportunities to fully develop their potential, abilities and interests because their parents are unable to provide them with appropriate conditions for optimal development, mainly due to economic status, but also to many other reasons. The parents of those children are deprived of services aimed at strengthening their parenting competence and educational programmes which provide them with knowledge on ways to stimulate the child's early development.

Timeframe: Started August 2012 - ongoing

Type of activities: A set of workshops and activities, mainly designed to increase parental competencies, was developed. Three main types of workshops were held two days per week during the Play and Learn Programme, namely: group lectures given by various experts, personal consultations (psychologist, paediatricians, gynaecologists, dentists, social workers, etc.) and peer-to-peer counselling. Overall, in the period from September 2012 to May 2013, 296 workshops were held in two cities and so far 469 families applied to participate in the programme. The programme encompassed 17% of single-parent families, 10% economically disadvantaged, and 8% of children with developmental disabilities. The majority of children who participated in the programme were between 2 and 4 years of age (68%), and 92% of them did not attend any activities other than the activities organised in the EDC. Additionally, since the launch of the programme, over 60 volunteers, mostly students from Belgrade and Nis University (studying psychology, pedagogy, defectology, etc) have participated in the implementation of the programme. Two one-day trainings for two groups of volunteers were held. Printed materials: a poster in B2 format was printed and distributed in healthcare centres, pre-school institutions, playgrounds, etc.; a leaflet including a short summary about the Centre and its workshops; a family organizer/calendar for parents was published with short educative/informative notices about child development where each month is covered by a different topic; an electronic version is also available for download and printing at our website: www.roditelj.org. An online campaign is also ongoing.

Results and outputs: Developed trainings, curricula/programmes and instruction/workshop materials. Printed materials: a poster in B2 format was printed and distributed in healthcare centres, pre-school institutions, playgrounds, etc.; a leaflet including a short summary about the Centre and its workshops; a family organizer/calendar for parents was published with short

educative/informative notices about child development where each month is covered by a different topic; an electronic version is also available for download and printing at our website: www.roditelj.org. Online resource centre for parents on early development: a separate section of the [roditelj.org](http://www.roditelj.org) website was established in order to promote EDC workshops and programmes as well as the necessity of such support in local communities. This section of the website continuously provides all basic information on early development of children with large number of topics that parents can read about and comment on. Also, it provides information on workshops, groups, programmes and all of the implemented activities. Just like our main website, [roditelj.org](http://www.roditelj.org), this section provides a “parents friendly online peer support” which parents are already familiar with. This means that they can ask a question, write a comment or look for a similar experience and someone from the project or programme team will shortly respond to them. The site also has a download section where all publications and promotional materials are available.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (psychologist, paediatricians, gynaecologists, dentists, social workers, teachers, physician, speech therapist), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations, public at large

Success factor(s): So far, 469 families applied to participate in the program, of which over 300 were included, which is more than 300 parents and more than 600 children in two towns (Belgrade and Nis). Over 1.500 printed leaflets, over 60 posters and over 600 family calendars/organizers were disseminated. Over 30 professionals participated directly as lecturers or counsellors, and so far there are 5 MoUs signed between EDC and local stakeholders (a healthcare centre in Nis – in order to provide support to the EDC in Nis, a primary school in Belgrade – where EDC holds workshops once a week, the Secretariat of education and children welfare in Belgrade on financial support for EDC, Mikser House / culture-creative centre in Belgrade for holding workshops, NGO “Evo ruka” for holding workshops in their premises). We have reached out to the business sector (IKEA have donated rugs for children, Laguna, a publishing company, donated books, and we have had donations from many other local businesses), local authorities, local kindergartens, healthcare institutions, and other CSOs for support, or/and to distribute information on the EDC to their beneficiaries. As for the visibility of the project, we have good cooperation with the media – local and national, and the programme has been well publicised (participation in radio broadcasts, TV, newspapers, internet social networks, etc.).

Estimated budget and human resources: 25.000 euros during phase 1 - 6 employees and 40 volunteers were engaged. One full-time and 5 part-time project coordinators.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Forms of Child Participation in Society "Our Children" Opatija *Society "Our Children" Opatija, Croatia*

Country(ies): Croatia

Title of practice: Forms of child participation in Society "Our children" Opatija

Main scope/theme: Child participation: democratic citizenship and human rights education, education and information on children's rights, children in the media environment (internet, social media, etc.)

Managing organisation(s): Society "Our children" Opatija, www.dnd-opatija.hr, contact person: Sanja Škorić, phone: +385 51 272 443, info@dnd-opatija.hr

Brief description: Forms of child participation in our city:

- Children's Forum - free children's activity through which they learn about their rights and obligations, and whose work is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, educating children about peace and tolerance and their peers' lifestyles in the world;
- Children's City Council (CCC Opatija) is an activity that allows the children's opinions to be heard and appreciated by decision makers in the city of Opatija. In 2011, CCC Opatija celebrated 10 years since its constitution and active child participation in Opatija;
- Meetings of children with mayors and county prefect;
- Meetings of Children's Forum with MPs;
- Children's public meetings;
- Writing messages – children to adults;
- Children as junior members of the Society «Our children» Opatija.

The Children's Forum is an activity of Society "Our children" Opatija through which children learn about children's rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children from the Children's Forum are active participants in the local community. Every child can be actively involved in the Children Forum. They are activities in children's free time where they learn about children's rights, explore problems of children and report their conclusions to adults in the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia and local authorities. Children's forums have initiated actions for children. Children involved in the work of the existing children's forums participated in: the United Nations Children's Summit, New York, 2002; International Congress about Children's Rights, Skopje/Ohrid, 2003; 6th Forum for Children and Families, Council of Europe,

Strasbourg, 2003, 7th Forum for Children and Families, Council of Europe, Vienna 2004, and as representatives of the children of the Republic of Croatia in the official delegations of our state. In 2006, the Children Forum engaged in the International Campaign Tapori, which main goal is to emphasise the problem of poverty in the world and in our local community, and take actions to fight against child poverty. Every year children from the Forum write messages to poor children in the world, organise activities and workshops in schools on October 17th related to child poverty, and organise child poverty exhibitions in Gallery Laurus in Lovran. In 2009, we celebrated Children's Forum's 15th birthday. Children from the Children's Forum are active participants in the local community. In July 2010, representatives of the Children's Forum of Society "Our children" and the Children's City Council Opatija represented Croatia at the children's meeting on poverty and social exclusion in Brussels organised by Eurochild. In December 2010, we attended the signing ceremony of the EU to reduce poverty and social exclusion in Europe by 2020. In 2012, representatives of the Children's Forum and the Children's City Council participated in the international conference: "Investing in Children: Preventing and Tackling Child Poverty and Social Exclusion, Promoting Children's Well-Being" held in Cyprus. In 2013, the Children's Forum and Children's City Council Opatija participated as peer researchers in a project organised by Child-To-Child Trust, UK.

The Children's City Council of Opatija is a mechanism that allows children to express their wishes and needs to adults and to those who make decisions in Opatija. Activities are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12, which sets out that children should be able to express their views freely on matters that concern them. The Children's City Council of Opatija has its own statute. The children have real elections. Every child from 4th to 7th grade of primary school can complete an application form for the Children's City Council. After application, children have their own election campaigns and then elections are organised in every class. The two children who get the most votes from their classmates represent their class in the Children's City Council. Every two years, in May, new elections are organised so other children can also experience and learn about participation. In every assembly there are two children from disadvantaged areas of Opatija - Dobreć, Oprić and Ika, from every class there is one female and one male pupil. Children from vulnerable groups are also involved in the Children's City Council (children with special needs, children of single-parent families, ethnic minorities). Their mandate lasts for two years. Children participate in workshops about children's rights and are involved in discussions with their educators at Society "Our children" Opatija. Children's councillors have sessions 4-5 times per year. At these sessions, children frequently prepare questions to ask the mayor and the chairman of the City Council, and they get answers from them on the spot or in writing after the session. At the sessions, they also present their results and projects. Every year, children consult the opinions of their peers in the city about their needs, and based on the information they collect, they make proposals for the city budget. Respectively, the adults present the city budget to the children. The Children's City Council of Opatija has its own small budget of 12.000,00 kn for conducting competitions for projects for children, and money is allocated to the project that is considered the most useful. Every year, the Children's City Council of Opatija also launches the so-called "Children's best actions" project to reward children who were involved in positive community activities.

Timeframe: Society "Our children" Opatija has actively worked on child participation since 1994. In that year, the Children's Forum in Opatija was founded. The Children's City Council Opatija was founded in 2001. In 2014, the Children's Forums celebrates 20 years of activity and work. Children are actively involved in various projects.

Type of activities: Activities that are implemented within those initiatives are:

- Education, workshops on children's rights;
- Education, workshops on communication skills;
- Workshops on how to manage projects;
- Implementation of projects that children initiated;
- Focus groups;
- Campaigns.

Results and outputs: The products of those initiatives are:

- Handbooks on child participation activities;
- Flyers and booklets;
- Monograph - 10 years of child participation in Opatija.

Realised projects of Children's City Council Opatija since 2001:

1. Dear restaurateurs, we are also here
Children visited hotels and examined restaurateurs' offers for children.
2. „1, 2, 3 we are living in a tourist place“
Children created a unique Croatian children guideposts throughout Opatija.
3. Welcome to Volosko, Ičići and Veprinac through children's eyes
Visiting Volosko, Ičići and Veprinac (places in Opatija), and with the help of mentors, children learnt about the history of those places and made recommendations for what is needed for children in these places.
4. „For happiness, you need a friend“
The goal was to introduce citizens to the problems of persons with disabilities; the result of that project: the barriers for people with disabilities on pedestrian crossings in Opatija were removed.
5. „Children's day in Opatija“
Children in Opatija have their own day, and the Children's City Council organises many activities on that day.
6. „Let's revive children's playgrounds“
Children examined whether playgrounds are being used, which ones are favoured, and organised children's gatherings on playgrounds.
7. Sport: children's right or children's exploitation?
Children researched their rights in sport and promoted physical activity for children.
8. Safe on the Internet - from Facebook to seaside walking trail
The goal was to develop and promote activities that contribute to increasing awareness of the risks and dangers of using computers and the Internet and how to avoid them and to promote healthy style of living.
9. „Let's arrange a corner for children's free time“
Initiatives for the arrangement of defectology and logopedic cabinets in Society "Our children" Opatija.
10. "Marathon of friendship and tolerance"
The aim was to promote intergenerational solidarity of children and adults and to sensitize the public to tolerant and friendly behaviour. Participants in the marathon were pupils from primary and secondary schools, kindergarten children, children with disabilities, athletes, celebrities, politicians, representatives of institutions caring for children, and grandparents Club 60+, "big" and "small" mayor.

Some results: renovated and equipped children beach Tomaševac, beach Ičići and children's playgrounds in Opatija, organisation of leisure time activities for children, sports and

recreational activities, fun afternoon for kids, free tutoring for elementary school children; travelling workshops in the surrounding villages of Dobreć and Veprinac; built skate-park, children's guideposts throughout Opatija— the first children's tourist guide was printed; 29 children's playgrounds in Opatija were constructed; arranged defectology and logopedic cabinets for children in Society "Our Children" Opatija.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, decision makers, public authorities and civil servants

Success factor(s): Adults respect children's opinions and proposals. About 1500 children participated in the activities of the Children City Council Opatija and the Children's Forum. In addition, the CCC participates in the discussions about development and urban planning in the city. Adults present to children the city budget of Opatija that concerns children. The children's mayor accompanies the "big" mayor to protocol events important to children. Media representatives are actively involved in child participation activities in Opatija and Lovran. The Children's City Council and Children's Forum collaborate with public institutions in the city, and together, they have realised some projects. The Children's City Council Opatija and Children's Forum participated in several international projects.

Estimated budget and human resources: The budget of the Children's City Council and Children's Forum is about 15.000,00 euros per year. Two staff members are employed in Society "Our children" Opatija who work on the programmes' implementation. 20 volunteers are involved in the realisation of various activities.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Social Inclusion Project (SIP) – Domestic Violence Victims *The National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption, Romania*

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: Social Inclusion Project (SIP) - domestic violence victims

Main scope/theme: Eliminating violence against children, domestic violence

Managing organisation(s): The National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption, www.copii.ro, contact person: Colang Aura, phone: +40213100789, aura.colang@anpfdc.ro

Brief description: The Social Inclusion Project is a project financed by a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and co-financed by the Romanian Government, according to the Project Appraisal Document no. 4825 RO between Romania and IBRD, and ratified by Law no. 40/2007. The project outlines the improvement of the living conditions and the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged/vulnerable people in the Romanian society. Social Assistance Programmes, as one of the SIP components, focus on the victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities and youth at risk, and will be implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities. The National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption is responsible for the "Victims of domestic violence" section, and it aims at: establishing a network of integrated prevention and assistance services for the victims of domestic violence, enhancing the use of modern programme monitoring and evaluation instruments, offering professional training for the staff that will provide counselling services, and implementing public awareness campaigns. Therefore, four projects are financed by the Romanian Government and IBRD (four shelters for the victims of domestic violence in Bucharest, District 3, and in the counties of Suceava, Dâmbovița and Iași). From September 2012 to January 2013, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly launched an innovative national campaign for the prevention and combating of domestic violence. The slogan was: "Domestic violence must not leave you indifferent". One of the justifications for the implementation of such a project was the need to achieve a deeper and more active involvement of the victims in raising awareness about the consequences of violent behaviour, and in the same time, alerting the community about the importance of their participation in helping the victims or notifying the right authorities about cases of family violence they know about. At the same time, the public was informed about the specialised

services available on a national level; namely, services that focus on preventing and fighting against family violence and that are easily accessible to the victims.

Timeframe: Activities:

- Preparing and organising the launching conference, Bucharest, 1 November 2012
- Preparing and organising 7 regional conferences attended by 50 participants each
 - ✓ regional conference Constanța, 09 November 2012
 - ✓ regional conference Iași, 15 November 2012
 - ✓ regional conference Târgoviște, 19 November 2012
 - ✓ regional conference Timișoara, 22 November 2012
 - ✓ regional conference Craiova, 26 November 2012
 - ✓ regional conference Sibiu, 29 November 2012
 - ✓ regional conference Cluj Napoca, 06 December 2012
- Preparing and organising the closing conference attended by 80 participants, Bucharest, 28 January 2013
- A poll was conducted to find out people's attitudes towards the family violence phenomenon, November 2012 – January 2013
- Drafting the methodology
- Implementation of the survey and primary analysis of the results
- Analysing the results and drafting the reports
- Organising 35 street events – caravan type, November – December 2012
- Preparation of the caravan (preparing the mobile units and promotional materials for each route, preparing the request and obtaining the authorisations for all of the 35 street events)
- Deployment of the caravan (sending information to the media and main stakeholders regarding the deployment of the caravan, organising training sessions for the personnel taking part in the event, and deployment of the 35 street events in three different routes).

Type of activities: Organisation of conferences, opinion poll, drafting reports, organising numerous street events. Some of those events have been implemented simultaneously.

Results and outputs: Four shelters for the victims of domestic violence, an opinion poll was conducted to find out people's attitudes towards and public awareness of the family violence phenomenon, broadcasting of TV and radio spots "Good night, Mommy!", distribution of flyers, posters (A1-10 pieces, A2-1410 pieces, A3-17390 pieces, A4-16470 pieces), stickers-87600 pieces and other promotional materials (balloons 2000 pieces, push button pens - 4100 pieces, caps – 200 pieces, paper cases – 4100 pieces, notebooks A5 – 4100 pieces, 1 banner, 2 canvas roll-ups and one flag).

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children, decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations, public at large, the victims of domestic violence, family offenders

Success factor(s): 500 participants (2 national conferences and 7 regional conferences), working meetings, local events specifically organised for the three routes of the caravan, namely:

- Route 1: Slobozia - Tulcea-Braila-Galati-Vaslui-Botosani-Suceava-Piatra Neamt-Bacau-Focsani-Buzau-Ploiesti
- Route 2: Alexandria-Slatina-Rm Valcea-Tg Mures-Bistrita-Sf. Gheorghe-Brasov-Pitesti

- Route 3: Dr. Turnu Severin - Resita- Arad-Oradea-Zalau-Satu Mare- Alba Iulia - Hunedoara - Tg. Jiu

In Bucharest (District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5, District 6), six street events were deployed, four shelters for the victims of domestic violence were arranged. The public was informed about the family violence phenomenon. There was an active media participation in all of the street events (video and radio spots of the campaign).

Estimated budget and human resources: Setting up centres to shelter the victims of domestic violence - budget: 531884,95 euros. Public awareness campaigns – budget: 305678,42 euros.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Think and Action Tank (TAT) on Children's Right to Health

Think and Action Tank (TAT), Italy

Country(ies): Italy

Title of practice: Think and Action Tank (TAT) on Children's Right to Health

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly justice, child-friendly healthcare, child-friendly social services, family law and family policies, education, sport, culture and other educational and youth activities
- Eliminating violence against children: sexual violence, trafficking of children, corporal punishment, gender based violence, domestic violence, violence in schools, bullying, harassment and cyber bullying
- Children in vulnerable situations: children in alternative care, children with disabilities, children in detention, migrant children, children 'on the move' (refugees, asylum-seeking, unaccompanied and separated, internally displaced and stateless children), Roma children
- Child participation: democratic citizenship and human rights education, education and information on children's rights, children in the media environment (internet, social media, etc.)

Managing organisation(s): Think and Action Tank (TAT), <http://ilariasimonelli79.wix.com/think-and-action>, contact person: Ilaria Simonelli, ilariasimonelli79@gmail.com

Brief description: The Think and Action Tank (TAT) on Children's Right to Health is an open and inclusive global network of professionals, policy makers and others caring for children. The TAT convened in June 2013 to explore the relevant theory, knowledge, ideas and experiences related to the challenge of translating the principles of children's rights, social justice and equality into paediatric and child health practices.

Timeframe: TAT started up in June 2013 and its activity is increasing.

Type of activities:

- Dissemination of knowledge and materials online;

- One workshop during the HPH international Conference (Barcelona, 2014);
- Planning of training modules for academic medical courses

Results and outputs: Online and printed operational models and tools to translate the child's right to health into practice. Among these:

- A Rights- and Equity-based Platform and Action Cycle to advance the child's right to health and well-being;
- The TAT Platform implementation tool;
- The TAT Template for the collection of practices supporting the child's right to health

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (health and social care, justice, mass media professionals and volunteers), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations, public at large

Success factor(s): Previous collaboration in working groups of experts and networking; motivation of TAT members (at the moment 31 people); the support of the European Paediatric Association.

Estimated budget and human resources: At the moment, about 10.000 euros, provided by institutional TAT members for 2 meetings. The TAT is a non-profit network and the activity of its members is not paid.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 - national practices in member states

“Székely-Potsa” Services Complex for Children with Special Needs *Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection of Covasna County, Romania*

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: “Székely-Potsa” Services Complex for Children with Special Needs

Main scope/theme: Children in vulnerable situations: children with disabilities

Managing organisation(s): Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection of Covasna County, www.protectiasocialacv.ro, contact person: Csaba Flórián Székely, phone: +40 7 32 81 08 35, csfszekely@yahoo.com

Brief description: The Services Complex for Children with Special Needs consists of two rehabilitation centres. The first centre, the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Autism Spectrum Disease and Sensory Disabled Children, was established in Sfantu Gheorghe with the help of an EU Phare Grant in the amount of 54.600 euros. Beneficiaries of this programme are children aged 3 to 7 years. Six years after the establishment of the first centre, a second rehabilitation centre opened doors in Chilieni in order to facilitate the rehabilitation programmes started at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Autism Spectrum Disease, and also to offer services to children with other impairments. The expenses for the establishment of the second centre were covered by the Romanian Government, the County Council and some Dutch NGOs.

Timeframe: The Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Autism Spectrum Disease and Sensory Disabled Children was established in September 2002, and the formal opening of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Special Needs took place in October 2008. Both centres are offering continuous services to their beneficiaries.

Type of activities: There are several types of activities:

1. Initial activities:
 - Meeting the family of the potential beneficiary;
 - Initial psycho-social assessment of the child/youth and the family;
 - Psychological assessment of the child/youth;
 - Assignment of therapeutic goals and development of a personalised intervention plan (rehabilitation plan);

- Discussions with parents regarding the child's rehabilitation, the objectives of the rehabilitation plan and the establishment of common objectives and tasks.
2. Proper rehabilitation:
 - Accomplishment of the goals set in the rehabilitation plans: sensory-motor activities, physiotherapy, cognitive activities, music therapy, speech and communication therapy, the development of social skills and self-dependence, free-time activities;
 - Consultations and professional support for parents.
 3. Auxiliary activities:
 - Equine assisted therapy (to promote physical, occupational, and emotional growth in children and youth with special needs);
 - Trips and outings;
 - Summer camps (to promote the development of self-dependence);
 - Common programmes with kindergartens and schools;
 - Exhibitions (objects made by the children and youth are showed in exhibitions to accomplish several goals: to present the activities carried on by the beneficiaries and personnel of the centres and to present the special needs of the disabled people; to show that people with special needs also have talents; to offer encouragement and new ideas to the specialist working with people with special needs).

Results and outputs: Personalised intervention plans (rehabilitation plans), posters and flyers, handbooks, and various objects made by the children and youth with special needs.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents

Success factor(s): So far, the rehabilitation programmes offered the following services to 82 children and youth with special needs:

- 18 children were integrated in kindergartens and schools;
- 8 children were enrolled in special schools;
- 3 youngsters started working in sheltered workshops.

Estimated budget and human resources: Our team consists of 16 specialists (a psychologist, a kinetotherapist, educators, a doctor, a medical assistant, a social worker) and 2 auxiliary employees.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 - national practices in member states

Educational Day Care for Labour Exploited Children - Focsani *General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County,* *Romania*

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: Educational Day Care Centre for Labour Exploited Children – Focsani, Vrancea County, Romania

Main scope/theme: Child-friendly services and systems: education; sport, culture and other educational and youth activities

Managing organisation(s): General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County, www.asistentasocialavn.ro, contact person: Daniela Nicolas, phone: +40 2 37 23 07 89, dgaspcvn@yahoo.com

Brief description: Currently, the Day Care Centre has 11 beneficiaries who receive educational support and supplementary alimentation so that they can attend all four primary classes and are not forced to work on the streets in order to provide for food. Because of the material scarcity and parental ignorance (parents who grew up in same promiscuous conditions that they offer to their children), the beneficiaries of the Day Care Centre are often abused, mistreated victims of parental violence. These children are disregarded, despised, they have lost their self-respect and trust in others, and they think that this way of life is absolutely normal. After spending time in the Day Care Centre, all 11 children return to their families. Unfortunately, their parents are unable to offer them the necessary hygienic conditions or adequate alimentation. Hence, the only meal these children get is from the Day Care Centre. In addition, the lack of legal address is one of the most significant issues for most of these families, since they are at permanent risk of being thrown on the street.

Timeframe: The Day Care Centre for Labour Exploited Children Focsani is subordinated to the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County, and it is situated in Focsani, 56 Cuza Voda Street. It was set up in December 2005 by "Save the Children", Bucharest, in partnership with the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County, to address the phenomenon of street children. Initially, 35 children from the streets of Focsani were identified and selected. These children either were begging or doing age inappropriate work in order to provide money for their parents or children from homes, and

parents also forced them to run different chores and look after their younger siblings. As the maximum capacity of the centre is only 17 beneficiaries, one had to select the most critical cases of labour exploited children. All of the selected children, aged 6 to 15 years, due to their parents' ignorance and lack of interest as well as their material deficiency and improper living conditions, never attended, left or are at risk of leaving school.

Type of activities: The following activities are implemented within the Day Care Centre:

- Classes in conformity with the primary school syllabus;
- Psychological assessment and counselling;
- Educational activities based on different themes: children's rights, health, academic counselling;
- Leisure and socialisation activities;
- Writing and organising the Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion Plan and the Psycho-social Plan;
- Legal support;
- Nutritional support.

Results and outputs: To this day, the Day Care Centre was able to successfully integrate/reintegrate 40 children into schools. The effort put into overcoming the dire situation of these children is remarkable. It is also worth noting that, by being beneficiaries of the Day Care Centre, the children are involved in various beneficial activities, and they practice less begging, less straying, spend less time in the town dumps, and are less involved in performing labour-intensive tasks.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents

Success factor(s): The purpose of this centre was to remove 35 children (from rural or urban areas) from the worst forms of labour activities. In 9 years, this objective was not only achieved but also excelled, having over 40 beneficiaries. All of the children attended school and, with the professional help from the centre, they stayed with their families and were not abandoned. All these achievements were possible with the help of several partners, such as: "Save the Children", Vrancea County Council, School no 3 in Focsani, Vrancea County Library, Vrancea County Educational Inspectorate, Police Inspectorate, Vrancea County Red Cross and many others. Over 30 educational projects were developed on different occasions on: 1 March, 8 March, Easter, 5 June, which is the Fight against Child Violence Day, 12 June – the International Day against Child Labour, Christmas, etc. All of these events were organised to raise community awareness of child labour exploitation and to present the positive outcomes of the Day Care Centre's work.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Do You Know My Rights?

The General Directorate of Child Protection and Social Assistance Buzau, Romania

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: Do you know my rights?

Main scope/theme: Child participation: education and information on children's rights

Managing organisation(s): The General Directorate of Child Protection and Social Assistance Buzau, www.dgaspc-buzau.ro, contact person: Ciprian Parvu, phone: +40 2 38 71 10 51, secretariat@dgaspc-buzau.ro

Brief description: The main purpose of the campaign "Do you know my rights?" was to promote children's rights in schools and residential centres.

Timeframe: A ten-day campaign organised in November 2013.

Type of activities:

- Meetings with children in schools to present them with information on their rights and responsibilities;
- Round tables with specialists and teachers;
- Meetings with teachers and parents.

Results and outputs: The children participants in the campaign produced graphic materials that express the most important rights and how the adults respect them.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children

Success factor(s): The meetings were organised in 16 schools and involved 630 students.

Estimated budget and human resources: The campaign was organised with our own logistic and human resources, and it involved 5 specialists.



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Organising and Running the Community Service for Children with Disabilities – Focșani

*General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County,
Romania*

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: Organising and running, in partnership with the Day Care Centre for Recuperation of Disabled Children and the Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation for Children with Autism Disorders, the Community Service for Children with Disabilities – Focșani.

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems
- Children in vulnerable situations: children with disabilities

Managing organization(s): General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County, www.asistentasocialavn.ro, contact person: Daniela Nicolas, phone: +40 2 37 23 07 89, dgaspcvn@yahoo.com

Brief description: Offering specialised services to children with Autism and neuro-psychological and motric disorders, both institutionalised and from the community:

- Psychological diagnosis;
- Personalised intervention plans;
- Speech therapy intervention;
- Massage and kinetotherapy;
- Personalized and group intervention;
- Parental counselling.

Timeframe: Community Service for Children with Disabilities was founded in 2007, through a partnership project between the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County and SERA Romania Association. The Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation for Children with Autism Disorders was founded through a project of the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation and its partners, the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Protection and Elder People – Child Protection Department and the Romanian Association of Cognitive and Behavioural Psychotherapies. The strategic project "They Also Must Have A Chance" – was a

programme for the social and professional integration of persons with Autism disorders with an implementation period of 3 years. It was finalised on September 30, 2013. The Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation for Children with Autism disorders is functional since June, 2012.

Type of activities: Specific activities:

- Psychological assessment and preparation of recuperation and rehabilitation plans, as well as personalised intervention plans;
- Individual and group educational and speech therapy intervention activities
- Massage and kinetotherapy.

Results and outputs: Currently there are 75 beneficiaries of the Day Care Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities and 29 beneficiaries of the Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation for Children with Autism Disorders. Informational materials (flyers, booklets, and other materials) are provided to the parents and interested persons.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents (children with neuro-psychological and motric disorders and Autistic disorders), parents, professionals working with children (in the Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation for Children with Autism Disorders, there are: a psychologist, a speech therapist, and 2 education instructors; and in the Centre of Recuperation and Rehabilitation of Disabled Children, there are: a psychologist, 2 kinetotherapists, a speech therapist, a masseur, and 3 educational instructors).

Success factor(s): The Centre for Recovery and Rehabilitation for Children with Autism Disorders was financed by the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation and the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County. Currently, there are 29 beneficiaries of the Centre. The Day Care Centre for Recuperation and Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities offers specialised services to 75 beneficiaries. The equipment for the Centre was provided by SERA Romania, and, at the present time, all of the expenses are covered by the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County.

Estimated budget and human resources: The exact budget for the set-up, organisation and operation of the Centre cannot be estimated. There are 11 full-time employees from the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Care of Vrancea County.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Catalysing Reform in the Romanian Institutional Child Care System

Hope and Homes for Children, Romania

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: Catalysing Reform in the Romanian Institutional Child Care System

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly social services
- Children in vulnerable situations: children in alternative care, children with disabilities
- Child participation: education and information on children's rights

Managing organisation(s): Hope and Homes for Children, Romania, www.hhc.ro, contact person: Otto Sestak, phone: 0040245903, otto@hhc.ro

Brief description: The initiative focuses on supporting the Romanian government to complete the reform of the child care system by 2020, including the closure of all large scale institutions.

Timeframe: Ongoing. The initiative started in 2011. It was designed to influence and create the necessary and sufficient conditions, by early 2015, for the Romanian government to implement and complete the reform of the child protection system by 2020.

Type of activities: Within the initiative, we work on preventing the separation of children from their families, reintegration and family support, development of a residential alternative based on the family model, training of staff, workshops with regional decision makers, national and international seminars and campaigns.

Results and outputs: The initiative has provided services for children, models of good practices, and manuals, and it has conducted research at a national level. We initiate and participate in institutional closures, development of prevention services for children and families, alternative care services and infrastructure of social services at a county level in 19 counties. We produced a manual for intervention for children with severe special needs. We conducted research on services for children at a national level and published the findings in the National Audit of the Social Service. In addition, we conducted research on the Financial Impact of the Reform in Child Protection.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (direct care staff members, managers of social services for children), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations

Success factor(s): During our initiative, we provided direct support to 3100 children, trained 180 decision makers and managers across the country, engaged in consultation processes regarding strategic priorities for Romania for 2020 in child protection with over 100 NGOs, children and representative of all 47 counties in Romania, as well as central authorities in the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, and the Ministry of European Funds. We engaged in international campaigns for deinstitutionalisation conducted in Europe (Opening Doors for Europe's Children), engaged EU level stakeholders in supporting the eradication of institutional care.

Estimated budget and human resources: The estimated budget for the initiative is 4.3 million euros. The initiative is implemented by a team of 35 full-time staff members.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

Integration of People with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, Romania

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: Integration of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly social services
- Children in vulnerable situations: children in alternative care, children with disabilities

Managing organisation(s): Romania Angel Appeal Foundation, www.autism.raa.ro, www.raa.ro, contact person: Adelaide Katerine Tarpan, phone: +40213236868, adela.tarpan@raa.ro

Brief description: The general objective of the project is to increase the chances of children and young people affected by autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) to achieve social integration and have future access to the labour markets by providing early diagnosis and improved access to services, recovery and specialised care programmes.

Timeframe: Project duration: 1 October 2010 - 30 September 2013. Services still continue to be provided in the 40 centres.

Type of activities: During the project duration, 624 psychologists received training in therapeutic intervention for people with ASD (autism spectrum disorders); 40 counselling and assistance centres for people with ASD have been established, in partnership with local Child Protection Authorities, aiming to provide free counselling sessions and assistance; over 1500 beneficiaries reached; a National Strategy for Social and Professional Integration of People with ASD has been developed through national consultation; over 1200 family doctors, pediatricians and psychiatrists have accessed two continuing medical education courses related to diagnosing ASD; a national campaign to raise awareness of the importance of social and professional integration of people affected by autism reached over 8 million people.

Results and outputs: Two e-learning courses on ASD diagnosis were provided to medical practitioners; 3000 copies of different educational materials, intended for the general population,

were disseminated; 5000 informative posters were produced and distributed in schools; 10000 informative brochures on ASD for families were produced and disseminated; 8 online toolkits for families were adapted and translated; community and School 1 project on developing a national strategy for social and professional integration of people with ASD; an informative website was created: www.autism.raa.ro; a secured platform for supervised training for professionals was created; 2 training course packages were developed and provided to 624 trained professionals.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children, decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations, public at large

Success factors: Successful collaboration with project partners, such as: the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly People - Directorate for Child Protection, the Romanian Association of Cognitive and Behavioural Psychotherapies and the local Child Protection Authorities was achieved. A large-scale awareness raising campaign was undertaken. Highly qualified professionals took part in all of the trainings (international trainers, researchers and university professors with extensive experience in ASD).

Estimated budget and human resources: The budget for the project is 1.915.296 euros, and it is co-financed by the EU through the Social European Fund. There are 11 full- and part-time staff members and 15 collaborators.



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

A Good Start in Life

Center for Education and Professional Development, Romania

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: A good start in life

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly healthcare, child-friendly social services, education
- Children in vulnerable situations: Roma children

Managing organisation(s): Center for Education and Professional Development, www.stepbystep.ro, contact person: Carmen Anghelescu, carmen.anghelescu@stepbystep.ro

Brief description: The project, "A good start in life", included 200 kindergartens from different counties in Romania. The project started in 2011, and its main focus was to develop services for children aged 2 to 4 years and to make ECEC services more easily accessible to children. The project was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, County School Inspectorates and Local Councils. Romania has a split system of early education and care, namely: crèches for children under 3 years of age and kindergartens for children aged 3 to 6 years. The first type of services belongs to the local administration, and the second type (kindergartens) belongs to the education system (the Ministry of Education, and respectively to the County School Inspectorate). In general, crèches emphasise care, and kindergartens focus on "teach and learn". The Centre for Education and Professional Development has a vast amount of experience with ECEC, over 20 years, and it has successfully partnered with local and central authorities within this field.

The main objective of the project, "A good start in life", is to increase the quality of ECEC services in two ways:

- In EU vision of quality, which means public policies to support quality (governance, curriculum, accessibility, evaluation and monitoring, and work force), and
- Using ISSA quality package, which means support for competent teachers and professionals and quality daily activities and interactions.

Timeframe: The project started in 2011 and lasted until 2013. However, it is still ongoing in some locations.

Type of activities:

- Organising an adequate learning space (explore and experiment) for children;
- Training courses for professionals in early child development philosophy (the value of childhood and of the child involved)
- Training of personnel in “child centred” education, that grants the child harmonious development;
- Specific meetings and trainings with parents and professionals to achieve objectives;
- Monitoring of all kindergartens’ groups included in the project; and
- Technical support for all kindergartens included in the project.

Results and outputs: Training packages for practitioners and parents.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (representatives from local authorities, such as: the School Inspectorate, Health Department, Social Services from Halland City), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants

Success factor(s): The project included 4000 children, 400 teachers, 2000 parents, and many local administrators. It also developed 96 services for preschool children (aged 2 to 3 years).

Estimated budget and human resources: Five persons were involved in the implementation of the project, and the budget was 4500 euros for the services provided.