

## **FRAMEWORK METHODOLOGY ON PREVENTION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AND NETWORK INTERVENTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILD AND VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY**

The issue of child abuse and neglect includes wide range of manifestations, justified by rapid evolution of society and the complexity of social and economic context may lead to situations aimed to make the child vulnerable in relation with the adults. For this reason, the appropriate regulation of this field constituted a point of interest on the agenda of Romanian authorities with responsibilities in the field of promotion and protection children's rights, against all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence.

Thus, at the end of 2010, the Romanian Government through a government decision approved the Framework Methodology on prevention and multidisciplinary team and network intervention regarding violence against child and violence in the family and Multidisciplinary and inter-institutional Intervention Methodology on labor exploitation of children or in risk of labor exploitation, on children victims of trafficking in persons and children, victims of other forms of violence on other states territory.

**The new legal document provides a common methodological framework for the authorities responsible with child and family protection against violence, for service providers in this field and for the professionals who work directly with children, their families and the presumed offenders/aggressor**

The legislation, newly entered into force will promote common work methodologies which can be applicable for all Romanian children, including Romanian migrant children, victims of violence on the other states' territory and also children, foreign citizens with or without refugee status, on Romania territory, according to provisions of Law 272/2004.

This framework methodology will help organizing efficiently the work methods of local competent authorities, supporting children affected by violence phenomenon under various forms, contributing to the increase in the quality of social services for child and family and to prevention children's separation of their parents.

The services provided to children and families will be diversified and the DGASPC-s will strengthen their capacity on managing the protection of children's rights against abuse, exploitation and violence.

The legal document **enacts the planning of the specialized and support services and also other interventions necessary for the rehabilitation of children victims of violence**, respectively adults and/or children of violence in the family, including services or interventions addressed to the family or to the presumed offender/aggressor.

A detailed assessment of the situation regarding violence against child, respectively violence in the family (violence against child at work place and child labor exploitation, including sexual exploitation, trafficking in children, migrant children, victims of other forms of violence in the other states' territory ) is performed by a multidisciplinary team, which subsequently will formulate a clear diagnosis regarding:

1. form of violence against child/ if is a case of violence in the family;
2. needs of the child/ adult victim in the wide context of family and community;
3. the priorities of intervention for child/ adult victim, family and presumed offender /aggressor

All these proposals shall be included in an rehabilitation and/or social reintegration

The new legal act contributes to the carried out of the some objectives in the National Strategy in the field of protection and promotion child's rights 2008-2013, approved by GD 860/2008, respectively:

- the observing the child right to protection, through multidisciplinary and inter-institutional intervention against abuse, neglect, exploitation,
- creation and development of an unitary, coherent and comprehensive system of prevention, referral and intervention in cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation, including sexual exploitation for commercial purposes, labor exploitation, trafficking in children, illegal migration, violence in family and other forms of violence against child.

Violence against child represents forms of bad treatments induced by parents or other person in position of power, responsibility or in trust relation with the child, which produce actual or potential harm over the his/her health and jeopardize life, development, dignity or morality.

### **Objectives of the Methodology :**

1. a work instrument for all professionals which intervene in prevention and intervention in cases of violence against child and violence in the family;
2. sustain inter-institutional and multidisciplinary intervention in this field;
3. promotes the prevention activities of all forms of violence against child, also of violence in the family.

### **The new legal document is in accordance entirely with the provisions of UN Convention on child's rights**

Starting with UN Study on violence against child and European Council Programme "Building a Europe with and for the children", which Romania was invited to take part as pilot country, it has been decided the promotion of the concept "violence against child" besides those "violence in family" and the integration of all the legal and administrative aspects in this field in an unitary, common framework.

Thus the Framework Methodology reflects the provisions of UN Convention on child's rights, which was ratified by Romania through Law 18/1990 and also of Law 272/2004 on protection and promotion of child's rights and of Law 217/2003 on prevention and combating the violence in the family. At the same time, it is based on the recommendations of UN Report on violence against child (2006). The present document:

- Puts together the work principles which must be obeyed in the intervention in the field of prevention and combating violence against child and violence in the family;
- Renders briefly the essential data about the forms of violence against child and violence in the family, on the basis of specialist literature, studies and experience gained in the practice by specialized services in this area;
- Describes the necessary actions for protection of children and family in case of violence, in the wide context of social assistance in Romania;
- Underlines the role and the responsibilities of different institutions and professionals involved in prevention and case solving;
- Establishes intra and inter –institutional collaboration procedures;
- Emphasizes the importance of initial and continuum professional training for all professionals which intervene in this area, and also their training in multidisciplinary and inter-institutional teams.

On the basis of this common methodological framework, each General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection will initiate the signing some partnership conventions with other

public institutions and accredited private bodies, relevant for this field from the county/sector of Bucharest for the implementation, particularization and dissemination of the present provisions,

In this context, a special attention must be paid to children with disabilities and those in the special protection, who are more exposed to the risk of becoming victims of violence, having difficulties, in the same time, in giving evidence of these situations or in getting appropriate protection.

The framework methodology is complementary with the following documents:

- a) Minimum mandatory standards for Child's Telephone, for Counseling service for abused, neglected and exploited child, Communitarian Resource Centre for prevention child abuse, neglect and exploitation (NAPCA State Secretary Order no 177/2003);
- b) Minimum mandatory standards for Emergency receiving center for the abused, neglected and exploited child (NAPCA State Secretary Order no 89/2004)
- c) Minimum mandatory standards on case management in the field of child's right protection (NAPCA State Secretary Order no 288/2006);
- d) Quality standards for social services in the field of protection of the victims of violence in the family ( Minister of Labor, Family and Social Protection Order no 383/2004)'
- e) Multidisciplinary and inter-institutional intervention methodology for exploited children and in risk of labor exploitation, of children victims of trafficking, of Romanian migrant children, victims of other forms of violence on the other states territory.

### **Case management:**

Case management is a process which implies passing a number of phases, which are particularized for the situations of violence against child and family. The case manager is the person who provides the coordination of the multidisciplinary team and providing services to the other professionals from the intervention network, after that following to be informed with respect of each of the phases of the case. The implication of a multidisciplinary team in the evaluation of such situations reduces the pressure over the child or the adult raising the quantity and quality of the data obtained. The multidisciplinary and inter-institutional team may have interventions during the evaluation process or the providing of the specialized services.

Regarding the situations of violence against child or family, the applicability of the case management is used in order to ensure the following activities:

1. Identification, giving evidence and initial assessment and taking over the cases of children, victims of violence, respectively adults and/or victims of violence in the family;
2. Detailed , comprehensive and multidimensional assessment of the situation of children victims of violence, respectively adults and/or children victims of violence in the family and also of their families and presumed offender/aggressor
3. The planning of specialized and support services and of other necessary interventions for rehabilitation of children, victims of violence, respectively adults and/or children, victims of violence in the family, including services or interventions addressed to the families and presumed offender/aggressor
4. Services and interventions provision, assisting the children victims of violence, respectively adults and and/or children victims of violence in the family and also assisting the family in getting and using the necessary services and initiation of legal procedures, at need,
5. Monitoring and periodical re-assessment of the registered progresses, decisions and specialized intervention;
6. Closing phase or final phase of the process of providing services and specialized interventions, with post-services monitoring and closing the case.

## **Local Inter-sectorial Team**

In the structure of the compartment for intervention in cases of abuse, neglect, trafficking, migration and repatriations, the following services are functioning:

- Child's Telephone Service with mobile intervention team in emergency cases, the representatives of DGASPC in Local Inter-sectorial Team for prevention and combating child labor exploitation, street social service for street children and compartment for violence in the family. Subsequently, this service will extend the activity for emergency situations regarding violence in the family and it will be called Telephone for Child and Family and will have the in the mobile team specialists in the field of prevention and combating violence in the family.

**Local Inter-sectorial Team (LIT)** for prevention and combating child labor exploitation can also have attributions in the field of violence against child and violence in the family. LIT has advisory role for case managers regarding the particularities of cases and cooperation between participating institutions at case management, and also for decisive factors regarding the elaboration of strategies, their review, establishment of services, execution of preventive activities through setting recommendations.

**Local Inter-sectorial Team** is established through County Council, Local Council in the case of sectors of Bucharest decision, and is coordinated by the DGASPC, according to the provisions of GD no 867/2009, being made up of representatives of the following institutions:

1. GDSACP
2. County Police Inspectorate/General Inspectorate of Romanian Police and sector police units;
3. County Gendarme Inspectorate/ General Directorates of Gendarmes in Bucharest;
4. Public Health Directorate/ Public Health Directorate of Bucharest;
5. County School Inspectorate/ General School Inspectorate of Bucharest;
6. Territorial Labor Inspectorate;
7. Non- governmental organizations.

**Local Intersectorial Team** may request the involvement of representatives of city halls, unions, patronages, church, probation services, legal medicine units, emergency receiving units and MAI-ANITP regional centers. Between the members ITL a partnership convention is closed for a period of minimum three years.

Multidisciplinary and inter-institutional team may intervene in the evaluation process as well as in provision of specialized services. Regarding the members of the team, its functions and objectives – evaluation and intervention- there are few categories of professionals which are part of minimum mandatory component:

1) A Social assistant, who is , as general rule, the case manager ( if she/he has the competences requested by the legislation)

2) Psychologist (ordinarily from a compartment/ specialized service of GDASPC )

3) Doctor. In the case of the child victim, it is recommended to be included in the team a specialist pediatric doctor and function of case, other doctors will be consulted: orthopedics, surgeons, gynecologists, pediatric neurologists, psychiatrists, radiologists. In case of adult, victim, it is recommended to be included in the team the medic from emergency service, in situations where this kind of intervention needed the presence of the medic designated for units of prevention and combating violence in the family; function of the case medics with other specialties will be consulted: gynecologists, psychiatrists, legal doctors, etc.

4) Policeman. Function of the case, it may collaborate with one or more policemen, especially within the following structures: Criminal Investigations, Public Order (proximity police and police units) Analysis, prevention and research, Criminal research and Combating Organized Crime, and with the police officer who is the designated member in Commission for Child Protection

5) Jurist (ordinarily the jurist of DGASPC )

### **Methodology for Local Inter-sectorial Team**

- At the case manager's request LIT provides expertise through its members (specialist information, case consultation, referral to other specialists, the facilitation of institution involvement in a specific case);
- At case manager's request, it facilitates the cooperation between participating institutions in case management;
- Analyses annually statistic data provided by GDSACP regarding child abuse and neglect, exploited children or at risk of labor exploitation, children, victims of trafficking in persons, children, victims of other forms of violence on the other states territory and of violence in the family;
- Formulates recommendations regarding the improvement of the activity in the field of preventing and combating violence against child and violence in the family (action plans, proposals for strategies and plans review, for establishing new services, caring out preventive actions, good practices dissemination, informing the public, professional training) which they forward to decision factors at local within bi-annual reports;
- Write bi-annual reports regarding the activity in the field of prevention and combating violence against child and violence in the family in the basis of the analysis of statistical data, collected good practices and other relevant information;
- Identifies examples of good practice in the field in order to disseminate them towards the professionals;
- Participates in preventive activities in schools and communities and inform the public including through media;
- Informs the colleagues within their own institutions and from territorial structures regarding the framework methodology and other legal documents in the field;
- Participates to training activities aimed at the professionals in the field;
- Draw up annual report activity in the field of prevention and combating the violence against child and violence in the family, that are also presented to the General Directorate for Child Protection within the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection (DGPC-MMFPS). The annual report includes recommendations regarding the improvement of legislation, of monitoring mechanisms and the identified good practices.