



## **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](http://www.hhc.ro), contact person: Otto Sestak, phone: 0040245903, [otto@hhc.ro](mailto: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.