



## 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](http://www.autism.raa.ro), [www.raa.ro](http://www.raa.ro), contact person: Adelaide Katerine Tarpan, phone: +40213236868, [adela.tarpan@raa.ro](mailto: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](http://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.