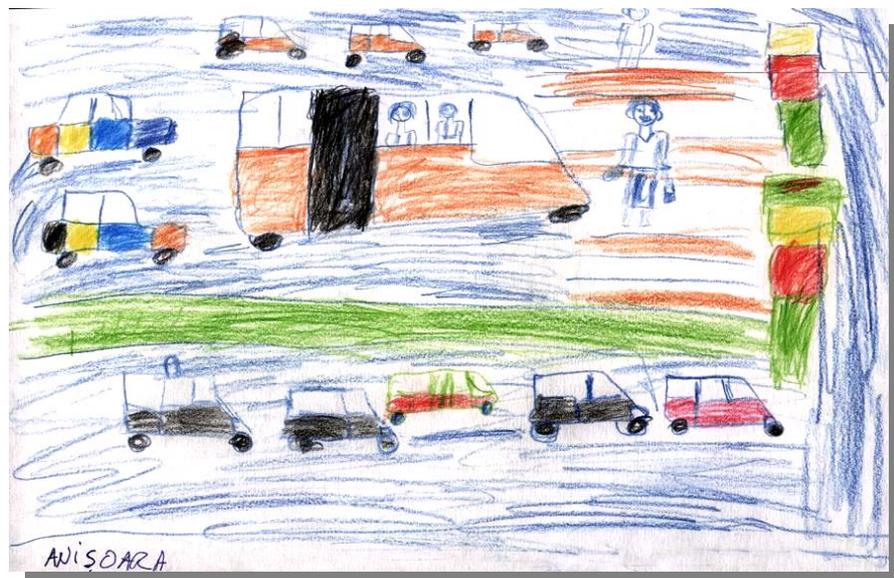


The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
(ILO-IPEC)

PROject of Technical assistance against the labour and
sexual Exploitation of Children, including Trafficking, in countries of
Central and Eastern Europe - PROTECT CEE

Funded by the US Department of Labor and by the German Government



*"A child living in the street doesn't know what a family means. He/ she
will end up begging, stealing or taking drugs." (Anișoara, 12 years old)*

ROMANIA
COUNTRY INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENTS
2004 - 2009



The Romanian Government and International Labour Organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the elimination of child labour for a five-year period in June 2002 setting up the framework for progressively prohibit, restrict and eliminates child labour in Romania.

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in Romania falls within the framework of the following international conventions ratified, as follows:

- ILO Convention 138 (1973) ratified in 1975,
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) ratified in 1990, and
- ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999) ratified in 2000.

IPEC has been active in Romania since March 2000 working to facilitate policy reform and a change in social attitudes in the country. In the first phase of IPEC Country programme in Romania (2000-2003), 18 action programmes for preventing and combating child labour were implemented in partnership by governmental institutions, local authorities, social partners, universities and NGOs. A number of 1,881 children at risk and victims of the WFCL benefited from the services provided and over 20,000 children received relevant information on the WFCL from over 3,000 trained professionals.

Starting with 2004, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine and the UN administered province of Kosovo participated in the ILO – IPEC sub-regional project Combating trafficking in Children for labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans and Ukraine under a common programming framework for IPEC in Central and Eastern Europe entitled PROject of Technical assistance against the labour and sexual Exploitation of Children, including Trafficking, in countries of Central and Eastern Europe - PROTECT CEE

PROTECT CEE - Phase I (2004-2007)

The project aimed to contribute towards the creation of an enabling environment to effectively prevent and eliminate internal and cross-border trafficking in children for sexual and labour exploitation in the sub-region and to reduce the incidence of trafficking in the four countries with a focus on:

- Advocate to bring legislation, policy and institutional framework in line with international commitments and specifically to ensure that national policies address the special needs of children trafficked internally and across borders for sexual exploitation or for labour.
- In selected high-risk areas, pilot projects to a/ promote youth employment (particularly through education and job counselling), b/promote peer education in youth centres for prevention of trafficking and reintegration of trafficked victims; c/ enhance the capacity of professionals for the psychosocial rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking.
- Strengthen knowledge management at national and sub-regional levels by a/production of manuals and guidelines adapted to the local context; b/documentation, validation and dissemination of good practices in combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour.



International Labour Office

Legislative Framework and Policies

Important laws and policies have been adopted, and new institutions have been set up to fulfil the Government commitment to combat child labour:

a/ laws:

- **Law on Child Rights Protection and Promotion no. 272/2004**
- **Law on the Judicial Organization in Romania no. 304/2004**
- **Law on Apprenticeship at the work place no. 279/2005**

b/ policies and programmes:

- **Plan of Priority Actions in the Field of Child Protection against Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation for 2004-2005** (GD no. 726/2004)
- **National Plan of Action (NPA) for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children 2004-2007** (GD no. 1295/2004)
- **Methodology for repatriation of Romanian unaccompanied children and for ensuring special protection measures in their favour at local level** (GD no.1443/2004)
- **NPA for the prevention and combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation 2004-2007** (GD no. 1504/2004)
- **NPA for the Elimination of Child Labour 2004-2007** (GD no. 1769/2004)
- **National Interest Programmes** (2004-2005) funded by Romanian government, targeting: reintegration and support for repatriated minors (including victims of trafficking), social reintegration of street children, preventing and combating child labour.
- **National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012** (GD no. 73/2005) including the **NPA for the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Agency 2005-2012**
- **NPA for the implementation of the Law on Child Rights Protection** (GD no. 1058/2005)
- **Plan of Action for Improvement of the Situation of the Street Children** for November 2005 - February 2006
- **National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings 2006-2010** (GD no. 1654/2006)
- **NPA 2006-2007 for implementing the National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings 2006-2010** (GD no. 1720 /2006)
- **Strategy on the Integrated Management of the State Boarder of Romania 2007-2010** (GD no. 324/2007)

c/ institutions:

- **National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Combat of Child Labour** (NSC) was officially recognized by a Government (GD no. 617/2004). The scope of this NSC, which started to function in 2000 as an informal IPEC project committee has been given the responsibility to monitor child labour in the country.
 - **Sub-Group for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children** (SGPCTC) established under the Inter-Ministerial Group against Trafficking in November 2003 was officially recognized and formal attribution were set by the Ministry of Administration and Interior (Order no.429/2004).
 - **Child Labour Unit** was officially recognized by the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights - NAPCR (Order no. 294/2005).
 - **Intersectoral County Teams** (ICTs) for monitoring child labour, were established under the coordination of the General Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection, based on the provisions of the NPA for the Elimination of Child Labour in each county and Bucharest (47 ICTs).
 - **Community Consultative Councils** (CCCs) for the protection of children's rights were established based on the provisions of the Law no. 272/2004 (1,584 CCCs until 2007).
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IPEC Action Programmes in Romania

Seven action programmes were implemented. The APs focused especially on a/ child participation and youth centres, b/ improvement in the care of victims of trafficking in children, c/ building the capacity of professionals to reduce vulnerability to trafficking of youth and adults from marginalized communities, d/ Strengthening the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) to prevent trafficking and facilitate reintegration of victims, and e/ promoting employment for youth and adults from marginalized communities. All these APs were drafted in line with the provisions of the national plans of actions and the recommendations of the key stakeholders participating in the consultations held by IPEC at national level.

The report of the **“Labour Market Survey in Bucharest and three selected counties”** prepared by the National Labour Research Institute in Bucharest, Iasi, Giurgiu and Botosani during 01.02.2005 – 30.09.2005 was presented to the NSC and recommendations were incorporated in the strategies of three Action Programmes. The methodology of the labour market survey was submitted for consideration to the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Labour Force Policies Department. The recommendations of the labour market survey, including the consolidated list of the 10 most suitable occupations for job placement, were also submitted to the National Agency for Employment, for further incorporation in the future development plans of the Local Agency for Employment from the selected areas.

The AP **“Building the capacity of professionals providing career education and job counselling to reduce vulnerability of children and youth from marginalized communities to trafficking”** implemented by the Centre for Partnership and Equality in the period 1.04.2005 – 31.04.2006 had the following outcomes:

- 75 professionals - social workers, psychologists, school counsellors, career counsellors, teachers, youth centres coordinators, peer educators, trade unionists and NGO-s staff - benefited from the training sessions on job counselling planned under or additional to this AP.
- A curriculum for professionals working with children at risk of labour exploitation was designed.

The AP **“Improvement in care of child/youth victims of trafficking and their long-term reintegration in Bucharest and three selected areas”** implemented by Save the Children Romania in Bucharest, Iasi, Botosani and Giurgiu counties during the period 01.04.2005 – 31.12.2006 had the following key outcomes:

- 119 professionals had an increased capacity to tackle trafficking in children (TiC) as result of training workshops organized.
 - 237 beneficiaries (140 girls and 97 boys), instead of 200 planned, prevented or withdrawn from trafficking by receiving individualized services like psycho-social counselling, legal counselling, non-formal education, health care, nutrition, clothes/uniforms, hygiene products and vocational educational training (VET).
 - A training curriculum was produced by national consultants, tested and improved during the programme implementation. It contributed to the IPEC sub-regional manual on the same subject.
 - The SGPTC made substantial progresses in addressing TiC as demonstrated by its contribution in drafting important policy documents with various technical and financial support (IPEC, UNICEF and USAID), such as: a/Minimum Mandatory Standards for Transit Centre for children victims of trafficking; b/Methodological Guide for the implementation of the Minimum Mandatory Standards for Transit Centre for children victims of trafficking; c/Inter-institutional intervention methodology in cases of trafficking in children; d/Reporting and Monitoring procedures in cases of trafficking in children; e/Methodological Guide on the prevention and intervention in multi-disciplinary team and inter-institutional network in cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.
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The AP **“Youth Centres for Reducing Vulnerability to Trafficking and Reintegrating Child Victims of Trafficking in Bucharest and three selected counties** implemented by Alternative Sociale Association in Bucharest, Iasi, Botosani and Giurgiu during the period 01.04.2005 – 30.09.2006, had the following main outcomes:

- 14 Youth Centres established with teams consisting of 42 peer educators, 14 Coordinators, 193 members of the resource groups and more than 200 volunteers (students, teachers and professionals) that benefited from a training of trainers programme based mainly on SCREAM Educational Pack. They developed a peer education programme for reducing vulnerability to trafficking and for reintegrating children victims of trafficking.
- 663 children (387 boys and 276 girls), instead of 650 planned, benefited from the services provided by the 14 Youth Centres including literacy, tutoring, life skills education, leisure time activities, counselling, mediation and material support.
- Families of direct beneficiaries were provided with information on child labour and child trafficking, and mediation services to access social assistance.

The AP **Strengthening the Child Labour Monitoring System in Romania** implemented by the International Foundation for Child and Family in Bucharest, Iasi, Botosani, and Giurgiu during the period 01.08.05 – 31.05.07 had the following main outcomes:

- 140 members of the ICTs and CCCs participated in training sessions on CLMS
- 129 direct beneficiaries were identified by CLMS at local level (86 boys and 43 girls) prevented to enter trafficking and referred to services (9 additional cases than planned).
- Over 4,000 children, teachers and professionals participated in various awareness raising activities both in urban and rural areas organized by the ICTs.
- The tools produced in the framework of this AP were proposed for upscaling in the next phase of PROTECT CEE..

The AP **Employment promotion for children/youth vulnerable to trafficking and their adult family members from Bucharest** implemented by the Confederation of Romanian Democratic Trade Unions in Bucharest during the period 01.11.2005 – 31.01.2007 had the following main outcomes:

- 30 teachers/trade unionists trained on career guidance.
- 111 direct beneficiaries instead of 100 planned (56 boys and 55 girls) benefited from the support services in terms of individual job counselling, summer school, VET courses and mediation with employers.

The AP **Employment Promotion for Youth and Adults from Marginalized Communities in Iasi and Botosani Counties** implemented by Pro WOMEN Foundation in Iasi and Botosani Counties during the period 22.07.2005 - 30.04.2007 had the following main outcomes:

- 117 professionals (teachers, school counsellors and psychologists) trained on career guidance.
 - 124 children from selected schools were identified and benefited from the following support services during the reporting period: education and job counselling, life skills training, supplementary nutrition, VET.
 - 9 adults from the direct beneficiaries' families participated in individual counselling sessions.
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Beneficiaries of the Action Programmes:

Children (Direct Beneficiaries)	PART A: Children withdrawn or prevented from child labour through the provision of educational services or training opportunities			PART B: Children withdrawn or prevented from child labour through the provision of other non-education related services		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Withdrawn	42	67	109	9	37	46
Prevented	536	443	979	91	39	130
Total	578	510	1088	100	76	176

An estimated total number of **350,709 children indirect beneficiaries** received services provided by the trained professionals under APs (2,852 children) and information on child labour issues (347,857 children).

IPEC budget In Romania

Exchange of experience/ good practices/researches	61,852
Direct support for children/families	298,792
Capacity building	113,575
Raising awareness	33,065
Total USD	507,284

State Budget allocation: 4,082,577 USD allocated by the Government throughout National Interest Programmes addressing both directly and indirectly the WFCL, including TiC during 2004-2007.

Complementary funds / CSR and fundraising activities:

- **107,153.80 USD** raised by the IPEC partners, implementing agencies for six Action Programmes implemented by Alternative Sociale Association, Centre for Partnership and Equality, Confederation of Romanian Democratic Trade Unions, International Foundation for Child and Family, Pro WOMEN Foundation and Save the Children Romania.
- **164,860 USD** raised within “Open your heart” campaign fundraising Campaign for supporting school enrolment of the working children by Save the Children and CORA Hypermarket (16,300 USD in the first edition in 2005, 65,454 USD in the second edition in 2006, and 83,104 USD in the third edition in 2007).
- **1,367,860 EURO** raised within the "Christmas Tree Festival" - Fundraising campaign for providing direct support to working street children by Save the Children organized every year during 2004 - 2007 (in cash and in kind).
- **46,756 USD** by UNICEF, USAID and UN System in Romania.



International Labour Office

PROTECT CEE - Phase II (2007 - 2009)

While PROTECT CEE has demonstrated an effective delivery capacity, the scope and complexity of WFCL in the region demands follow-up work. Therefore a second phase of PROTECT CEE was designed to build on the work and lessons learned from the first phase of the project. The strategy revolves around three key principles:

- Provide direct services to children at risk / victims of trafficking and WFCL in sectors / areas that have not been (or insufficiently) targeted by IPEC in the region (agriculture, street work, illicit activities);
- Finalize, upscale and institutionalize models of intervention previously tested under phase one, so that they are implemented on countrywide basis, with resources allocated by Governments (in line with adopted policies), employers, and donors.
- Strengthen the knowledge management component of the project through a/continued learning from direct actions in the field, b/additional capacity building efforts towards relevant partners, c/knowledge sharing exercises.

Legislative Framework and Policies

A new Memorandum of Understanding on the elimination of child labour between the Romanian Government, represented by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal opportunities, and International Labour Organization, represented by International Labour Office, for a five-year period was signed on 18 March 2008.

Currently there are in process of finalization or approval a serial of important legislative documents with impact on the elimination of child labour:

- **National Strategy in the Field of Protection and Promotion of Child's Rights for the period 2006-2013, including the Operational Plan (2007-2008) for its implementation .**
- **Law on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings no. 678/2001.**
- **National Strategy for Professional Training in the Field of Child Rights Protection**

The Coordination of the NSC was undertaken by NAPCR (GD no. 76/2008). There were established four specialized working groups under NSC on a/Child Labour Monitoring System, b/Code of Conduct, c/resource mobilization and d/HCL in Agriculture.

IPEC Action Programmes in Romania

The AP “**Quality education and other support services for working street children/ children at risk of entering street work in selected metropolitan areas from Romania**” is implemented by Save the Children Romania during the period 26.02.2008 – 25.02.2009 and targets 350 children direct beneficiaries, out of which 200 children will be withdrawn from street work and 150 children will be prevented to enter street work (link with the brief AP presentation).

The AP “**Combating the WFCL in rural areas including HCL in Agriculture in Iasi County**” is implemented by Alternative Sociale Association during the period 4.03.2008 – 3.03.2009 and targets 350 children direct beneficiaries, out of which 50 children will be withdrawn from WFCL in agriculture and 300 children prevented from entering in WFCL in agriculture (link with the brief AP presentation).

The AP “**Finalizing, upscaling and initiating the institutionalization of the model of CLMS in Romania**” will be implemented by the Resource and Information Centre for Social Professions – CRIPS for a period of 12 months (expected period April 2008 – March 2009) and one of its main outcome will be finalization of the CLMS model in Romania, which will be submitted for approval and further upscaling nationwide to the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights. The AP also will target 363 children direct beneficiaries, out of which 159 children will be withdrawn from WFCL and 204 children will be prevented from entering WFCL in eight selected counties (link with the brief AP presentation).

Beneficiaries targeted:

Children (Direct Beneficiaries)	PART A: Children withdrawn or prevented from child labour through the provision of educational services or training opportunities			PART B: Children withdrawn or prevented from child labour through the referral to educational services or training opportunities		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Withdrawn	92	65	157	164	88	252
Prevented	188	167	355	174	125	299
Total	280	232	512	388	213	551

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List of IPEC Romania main resources (links for electronic versions)

- Good practices: Gender Mainstreaming in Actions Against Child Labour, IPEC Romania, translated in Romanian, 2003 (Bune practici: Integrarea perspectivei de gen in cadrul actiunilor de combatere a exploatarii muncii copiilor)
 - Child Labour in Romania, a Discussion Paper, National Labour Research Institute, 2004, both in Romanian and English (Raport privind munca copilului)
 - Preventing and Combating Child Labour in Romania, ILO IPEC, 2004, in Romanian (Prevenirea si combaterea muncii copiilor in Romania)
 - Specialized Training Manual on Psychosocial Counselling for Trafficked Youth, ILO IPEC TICSА project, translated in Romanian, 2005 (Manual specializat de instruire pentru consilierea psihosociala a tinerilor traficati)
 - SCREAM Supporting Children’s Rights Through Education, The Arts And The Media, ILO, translated in Romanian, 2005 (SCREAM Apararea drepturilor copilului prin educatie, arta si mass media)
 - Training Resource Pack on Hazardous Child Labour In Agriculture, ILO, translated in Romanian, 2006 (Pachet de resurse de formare privind eliminarea exploatarii copiilor prin munci agricole periculoase/vol 1 si vol 2)
 - Guidelines for Parliamentarians for Implementing the ILO Convention 182, ILO, translation in Romanian republished in 2006 (Ghid practic pentru parlamentari pentru implementarea Conventiei OIM nr.182)
 - Self Guide for Youth Entering the World of Work, Alternative Sociale Association, 2006, in Romanian (Ghid privind intrarea tinerilor pe piata muncii – Un ghid mic pentru o cariera mare)
 - Practical Guide To Child Labour Reporting, ILO, translated in Romanian, 2006 (Ghid practic pentru Raportarea privind Munca Copilului)
 - ILO Tool Kit for Labour Inspectors: a Model Enforcement Policy, a Training and Operational Manual, a Code of Ethical Behaviour was translated by ILO Moldova, adapted to Romanian context and translated in Romanian, 2007 (Set de instrumente pentru inspectorii de munca: Model de implementare a politicii Inspectiei Muncii, Manual operational si de instruire si Cod deontologic)
 - Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Children Withdrawn from Trafficking and Other Worst Forms of Child Labour, ILO IPEC PROTECT CEE, in English, 2007 and translated in Romanian, 2008 (Reabilitarea psiho-sociala a copiilor retrasi din trafic si alte forme grave de munca)
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