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COUNTRY REPORT ROMANIA

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Daphne Project JUST/2009/DAP3/AG/1235
Project workstream 1



SUNIA GEEL – Prevent and combat violence
against children, young people and women and to
protect victims and groups at risk

For further informations please visit:
www.suniageel.eu

PROJECT- COORDINATOR

Exchange House
National Travellers Service
Great Strand Street 61
Dublin 1, Ireland
www.exchangehouse.ie
info@www.exchangehouse.ie



Sunia Geel
Daphne Project JUST/2009/DAP3/AG/1235

State of the Art Report
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Romania

1. LEGISLATION

1.1. Legislative Framework

Family violence became a subject of public debate in Romania only after 1995.

Romania's Constitution, article 23,24 stipulates that no one can be submitted to torture or any kind of punishment, or degrading, or inhuman treatment.

Law nr. 217/2003 defines family violence as any physical or verbal action done intentionally by a member of the family against another member of the same family that provokes a physical, psychological sexual suffering, or any material prejudice.

The law also stipulates the obligation of the ministries and of the other central authorities of specialty to designate specialized staff in order to elaborate the cases of family violence (articles 5 and 6).

The law stipulates the cooperation between local authorities and NGO-s, as well as the implication of the whole local community in supporting the actions of fighting against and preventing of this phenomenon (article 7).

The law creates at national level an institution called the **National Agency for the Protection of the Family (Agenția Națională pentru Protecția Familiei)**, with attributions in elaborating, implementing and applying a national strategy in the domain of family violence.

The agency has to finance or co-finance specific programs from the domain of defending and consolidating of the family as well as taking care and protecting the victims of family violence. (article 9, paragraph 1, letter c).

Law nr. 211/2004 regulates some provisions of information for the infraction victims concerning their rights, as well as of psychological counselling, free jurisdictional support and financial compensation granted by the State to the victims of infractions.

Law nr. 202/2002 was the first Law in Romania with explicit regulations in the domain of the equality of chances between women and men.

Law nr. 272/2004 regulates the legal frame concerning the respect, promotion and guarantee of the children's rights.

Order nr. 384/306/993 from 2004 for approving the Procedures regarding the cooperation in preventing and monitoring the cases of family violence.

This inter-ministerial Order regulates the cooperation in preventing and monitoring cases of family violence between these three ministries with attribution in the domain respectively : The Ministry of Work and Social Protection, the Ministry of Administration and Interior. The Article 2 from Annex 1 identifies the local institutions that will sign protocols of cooperation in order to prevent and monitor the cases of family violence : the gendarmerie headquarters, the departments of public health, the departments for dialogue, family and social solidarity through the departments having attributions in fighting against the family violence and the units of preventing and fighting against family violence. By these protocols of cooperation there will be established activities at local level. (article 3).

1.2 Definition of the domestic violence

The definition that the **Law nr. 217/2003 for preventing domestic violence (in Romania violence in family)** is the following :

„(1) Domestic violence represents every physical or verbal action made with intention by a member of family against another member of the same family, who develops a physical, psychological sexual suffering, or a material prejudice.”

(2) Under domestic violence we also understand the hindering of a woman to practice her fundamental rights and liberties.

(3) The law provides also the meaning of the member of family : husband, relative, or similar relation between them similar to husband and wife, or relation between parents and children, proved by the social inquiry.

The concept of “ violence in family” is very large and encompasses domestic violence (understood as violence between partners, being husband and wife or concubines), but also violence against children, seniors or other relatives

Regarding the domestic violence some NGO-s which worked in Romania in this field, this represents repeated forced and physical, sexual, psychological attack that a person practiced on the partner in order to control and dominate him/her, using the force and/or profiting of the incapacity of defending of the victim, that appears in the relation within a couple. The abuses of economical and social reasons are also taken into consideration.

1.3. Types of violence

The family violence has got diverse forms, more or less visible, such as : physical, psychological, sexual, economical and social violence. The violent persons show a series of repetitive , aggressive behaviour (violence manifests rarely by a single incident), in a combined corrective actions of attack of various types. Family violence has some characteristics that make it different from other types of violence appearing incidentally or in other contexts and it has a dynamic or a special cycle of manifestations based on the type of relation that exists between the victim and the perpetrator. It is a severe phenomenon or a community problem, a social problem and a problem of public health that affects mainly women (95% from all the victims of violence in the family are women).

The physical violence consists in painful physical contacts including physical intimidation of the victim.

Generally speaking, the victims of the family violence are subject of many repeated actions of aggression during the cohabitation.

Immediate effects of physical violence are : body harms, provoking of handicaps or even the death of the victim. With the time the victims of family violence suffer chronicle gastro-intestinal , psycho-somatic affections, nutritional disturbances and post-traumatic stress.

Psychological/ physic violence (includes emotional and verbal violence)

Defined also as „emotional abuse ”, the psychological violence is used to manipulate and control; the effect is cumulative in time with serious consequences for a long time for the victim. The specific literature indicates that this type of violence is a central factor within the inter family abuse.

Sexual violence/ sexual abuse 15 consists of any unwished sexual contact of the partner, or of that in which the partner can't express his/her formed valid agreement.

Economical violence represents the decrease of the resources and autonomy of the victim by controlling the financial resources and his/her access to money, personal objects , food, means of transport, phone, and other resources of protection or care he could benefit from.

Social violence represents a form of passive psychological violence that consists in the control of the victim in its isolation from the family or from the friends or in monitoring of its activities and that results in the interruption or insufficiency of social relations, as well as restriction of the access to information or assistance.

1.4. The access of the victims of family violence to free juridical assistance

Beside the lack of juridical information, the costs necessary for starting a process against the perpetrator represent an important obstacle for the victim of family violence. This is why the juridical /judiciary assistance of the victims should be free.

Law nr.211/2004 concerning some provisions for the protection of the victims of infractions Article 18 of the Law stipulates the following conditions for granting the free juridical assistance :

(i) the harmed person to be the victim of an attempt to the infraction of murder, qualified murder and extremely serious murder, stipulated but the articles 174-176 from the Penal Code, an infraction of serious body harm stipulated by the article 182 from the penal Code, and intentioned infraction that had as a result the serious body harm of the victim, an infraction of rape, sexual act with a minor and sexual perversity stipulated by the 197, 198 and 201, paragraphs 2-5 from the Penal Code);

(ii) the monthly income per family member of the victim should be at least equal to the minimum basic gross salary of the economy established for the year in which the victim wrote the claim for the free juridical assistance.

From the article it appears to indicate the fact that we speak about the assistance granted during the penal process having as its object the infraction whose victim was the petitioner both in the penal part and in the civil part.

The condition that the victim should have announced the penal authorities or judging instance during 60 days from the infraction represents a restriction of exercising of this right, thus introducing a more severe regime than that included in the Code of Penal Procedure. The introducing of this term was looked upon as favourable by the professionals of the judiciary system as imposing a right obligation of diligence to the victim, but it was criticized by the specialists that are aware of the impact at psychological level of an abusive relation.

Unlike the regime stipulated by the Code of Penal Procedure, the claim applied by the victim in accordance with the Law nr.211/2004 has a special regime. The victim can mention that he/she already has a lawyer whose honorary will be totally or partially covered by the sums allocated for this aim, unlike the other situations in which he/she hasn't got this possibility, the lawyer being designated by the bar association. The amount of the allocated sums in this aim is equal to two basic minimum gross salaries of the economy, higher than the honoraries received by the lawyers designated by the bar associations in accordance with the article 173 from the Code.

The funds are granted from the State budget through the Ministry of Justice. Besides the free juridical assistance claims for executing the juridical decisions are free of stamp duties. .

The law establishes the conditions in which some one can register such a claim. At the same time this Law stipulates that with the claim for the granting of the free judicial assistance one has to provide annexes of the copies of the justifying documents documenting the data written in the claim and for all documents that the victim has as useful for the solving of the claim.

Law nr. 217/2003 for prevention and fighting against family violence

The law stipulates the granting of juridical assistance only to victims that were admitted in a shelter. The Article 24 paragraph 2 of the Law tries to address two necessities often found in practice: the financial needs on the one side, and the rapid intervention to prevent the possible damages on the other side.

According to the Law the juridical counselling is free, and the expenses are granted by the local budget after being approved at the level of the local public administration.

The law stipulates at article 24 that after entering the shelter the victim is informed of the juridical means through which it protects its goods remained at the perpetrator such as: the notification by means of the juridical executor of the ceasing of the silent agreement for the alienation and taxation of the common goods or the assurance of the proof by means of judiciary examination.

The juridical counselling is free , and the mayor, and at the announcement of the familiar assistant, in severe social cases agrees the support from the local budget of the necessary expenses to draw the juridical documents.

The victim can also benefit of free juridical assistance which is supported by the National Agency for the Protection of the Family within the frame of some programs. The applicability in practice of these regulations is still doubtful.

2. POLITICAL LEVEL

In parallel with the increasing scientific interest in the phenomenon of family violence various programs and strategies designed to provide solutions to alleviate and eradicate violent behavior in family social environment have been developed and promoted. Also many educational campaigns that followed, among others, a public awareness regarding this serious social problem have been developed. These initiatives belong to governmental organizations and institutions, as well as those belonging to civil society who were involved, particularly in action to protect victims and appropriate punishment of perpetrators.

Sociological research on domestic violence has led to some striking conclusions of the experts and relevant research about the manifestations of aggression in family life. Increasing awareness and awareness of the harmful implications of violent behavior in the family environment has attracted the attention of the authorities and led them from taking official action in respect of regulating behavior in family space. Thus, a series of reforms were introduced in the legal system, medical system, the institutions capable of operating to intervene in cases of family crisis or prevent such cases.

The main priorities of the governmental policy in the domain of domestic violence are :

- Developing a system to prevent and combat domestic violence by providing support for the economic, social and legal domestic violence victims (shelter centers for victims of domestic violence, recovery centers for victims of violence and perpetrators, social assistance centers, etc.).
- Promoting zero tolerance of domestic violence through education and awareness
- Effective cooperation with NGOs in order to use the expertise and experience
- Establishing a national research on the extent of domestic violence in Romania;
- Develop manuals of best practices, monitoring and evaluation tools, developing a uniform system of registration and monitoring of cases of domestic violence at local and central level ;
- Develop methodologies, procedures and criteria for approval of active social units in the field of family violence;.
- Continuous professional training of specialists in the field;
- Organizing a support group composed of outstanding personalities of Romanian society willing to promote "zero tolerance" towards violence in the family

2.1. The demographic situation:

Over the past decades, the Romanian population has experienced significant and alarming alterations, with long-term negative trends. Beginning with 1990, the total population has decreased each year, with an average annual rhythm of 0.2%. The most significant decrease was during 1992 – 2002, when the population decreased by 1.1 million inhabitants. The negative values of the natural increment together with those of the external migration balance caused the population to decrease during 2002 – 2007 by 268 thousand people. The demographic evolutions over the past years have led to a decrease in the young population of ages 0 – 14 and to an increase in the percentage of the elderly population of 65 or older. Data indicate a decrease by 8.3 percent in youth during 1990 – 2007 (23.7% in 1990 and 15.4% in 2007, respectively), as well as a growth by 4.6 percent (10.3% in 1990 and 14.95 in 2007, respectively) in the elderly population of 65 or older. The potentially active population, of ages 15 – 64, which provides Romania's labour force, oscillated between 66.0% in 1990 and 69.8% in 2007.¹

In a total population of 21,584,365 inhabitants, Romania had a birth rate of 10.2 born alive in a thousand inhabitants in 2007, compared to a general death rate of 11.7 deaths in a thousand inhabitants. During 2004 – 2006, the average life expectancy in Romania was 72.2 years, with a significant differences between the male and the female population (68.7 years for men and 75.5 years for women), compared to the EU-27 average, which is around 75 years in men and above 80 years in women.²

The distribution of households according to the number of children below the age of 18 supported by their parents indicates a high percentage of households without children (68.5% in all), which is high both in the urban and in the rural areas (66.95% in the urban area and 70.75% in the rural area). At the same time, households with 1 child cover 57.3% of all households with children. Households with one child are more common in the urban environment, while those with two, three, four and more children are more common in the rural environment.

Judging from the analysis of both national and international data, according to the forecasts and without considering the external migration but estimating a growth in life expectancy at birth, Romania's population will decrease from 21.5 million inhabitants in 2007 to 21.2 million in 2013, to 20.8 million in 2020 and to 19.7 million in 2030. If we take into account the growth of mobility and the effects generated by the external migration, Romania's population could reach 20.8 million inhabitants in 2013, 20 million in 2020 and 18.6 million in 2030, according to the forecasts. These aspects have very important consequences in all the areas of the economic and social life, such as education, labour force employment, professional training, social and health services etc.³

¹ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg3

² STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg4

³ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg4

2.2. The economical situation:

During 2001 – 2007, Romania's macroeconomic performance significantly improved, thus allowing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to experience an average annual growth rhythm of

above 6%, among the highest in the region. In 2007, Romania's Gross domestic Product reached

approximately EUR 121.3 billion, which meant a triple amount compared to the year 2000.

However, GDP per inhabitant calculated for the standard purchasing power was almost 41% of the EU27 average.⁴

After 1990, the structure of the Romanian economy went through important changes, essentially

consisting in a transfer of activities from the industry and agriculture initially to services and subsequently to constructions. In the first phase, the restructuring of industry led to a reduction of its contribution to the composition of the GDP from approximately 40% in 1990 to around 25% in 1999. After 2000, the structural downfall was stopped and the contribution of industry to

the GDP remained at a relatively constant level. It is important that in 2007 the private sector created 86.6% of the gross value added in the industry, as compared to 68.4% in 2000. The percentage of the service sector grew to 26.5% of the GDP in 1990 to approximately 50% in 2007.⁵

In 2007, total incomes in a household were 21.7% higher as compared to 2006 (the nominal value being RON 1686.7/month) and incomes received by a person were 22.1% higher than in 2006 (the nominal value being RON 577.7/month). The main destination of a household's expenses is the consumption (72% of all expenses per total households in average). It is important to mention that 61.4% of all expenses goes to purchasing food and non-food products, as well as to payment of services. A significant weight in the total of expenses, namely 15.0% consists in income taxes, contributions to social security budgets, social security taxes and other taxes and fees. 35.3% of these expenses consisted in the salary tax and 61.7% in the payment of social security contributions.⁶

2.3. The situation of labour force employment:

The evolution of society over the past years was influenced by the economic reforms that generated deep changes on the Romanian labour market. The social conditions have caused the decrease in the natural life increment and the growth of temporary and permanent migration, which in turn led to a constant reduction of population and, implicitly, of the active population. Further to analysing the structure of the active population per age groups, it is noticeable that there are obvious aging tendencies. The highest percentage is that of people above 35.⁷

2.4. The evolution of poverty:

According to the data supplied by the National Institute of Statistics in 2007, approximately

⁴ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg4

⁵ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg5

⁶ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg5

⁷ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg5

18.5% of the Romanian citizens are poor (18.3% of men and 18.8% of women). During 2004 – 2007, there was a stabilisation of the relative poverty rate level around 18% - 19%. From the point of view of **the residential environment**, the rural environment continues to deal with a greater occurrence of poverty and severe poverty, while poverty rates in the rural environment came up to 29.6% in 2006, compared to 9.6% in the urban environment. The comparative analysis of 2007 as to 2006 shows that the poverty rate in the rural environment grew from 29.6% to 29.9% in 2007. Consequently, approximately 70% of those exposed to the poverty risk live in the rural environment.⁸

The poverty rate among **children** aged 0 – 15 is 24.7%, that is 6.2% percent more than the national average. Moreover, according to the available data, there is a high poverty rate among young people (ages 16 – 24), namely 20.4%, which is 1.9% more than the national poverty rate and 1.1% more than the poverty rate among elderly persons (65 and above).⁹

During 2006 – 2008, Romania’s strategic objective in the social inclusion area focused on strategic actions to lead to the creation of an inclusive society in which to provide the citizens with the resources and means necessary for a dignified life. In order to reach this objective, the main priorities identified consist in:

- _ the general growth of the population’s standard of living and the stimulation of revenues gained from work, based on facilitating employment and promoting inclusive policies.
- _ Enabling the access of citizens, especially of groups that are disadvantaged from the resources, rights and services point of view.
- _ Improving the living conditions of Roma population Social inclusion has been and shall still be on the Romanian Government’s political agenda. The strategic approach regarding the elimination of social exclusion includes any form of exclusion, whether of gender, age, ethnicity and focuses primarily on the identification of the most vulnerable people, groups, communities etc. Dealing with these problems can only be made in an integrated framework that ensures the intertwining of the economic and the social development.

A multidimensional answer to the social need can only be given by means of a coordination of all levels involved. At the same time, coherent and integrated structures must be created in order to facilitate the monitoring and the assessment of national policies of social inclusion. There has been significant progress in this area, highlighting the active involvement of the responsible structures in the improvement of the citizens’ standard of living.¹⁰

By adopting the **National Strategy regarding the social protection, integration and inclusion of disabled persons during 2006 – 2013** “Equal opportunities for disabled persons – towards a society without discrimination”, the Government set forth its general objectives, namely: promotion of social integration for disabled persons as active citizens able to control their lives, with the following specific objectives: providing support to families that include

⁸ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDINGSOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008,pg7

⁹ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDINGSOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008,pg7

¹⁰ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDINGSOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg11

disabled persons, improving the degree of employment for disabled persons on the labour market.¹¹

In 2007 there was a significant growth in the number of authorised protected units due to the enforcement of the new legislation in the field of disabled persons protection, which encourages the employment of this category of persons as well as the organisation of protected units. While only 48 units were authorised by the end of 2006, their number grew to 150 by the end of 2007. The number of persons employed was of 21,906 on 31 December 2007, compared to 16,225 on 31 December 2006, of which 2,431 are people with severe disabilities and 16,707 are people with significant disabilities.¹²

Priority objective no. 3 – Improving living conditions for Roma population

The special measures taken in order to integrate Roma population on the labour market have resulted in the employment of 15,987 persons. The job fair for people of Roma ethnicity was organised in honour of the European year of equal opportunities for all in all the counties and in the city of Bucharest on different dates and many locations were actual Roma communities. The final results of the job fair are:

- 6,214 employers were contacted (of which 116 Roma businessmen and 96 insertion employers), of whom 985 participated (30 Roma business men and 29 slotting employers);
- 16,347 jobs were offered, of which 13,560 for Roma people and 144 for the employment of socially excluded youths, according to the Law no. 116/2002;
- 8,619 people participated (of whom 6,496 Roma persons) and 3,779 persons were selected for employment, of whom 2,786 were Roma persons and 103 were socially excluded people according to Law no. 116/2002;
- the total number of occupied jobs was of 1,771, of which 1,187 Roma persons and 53 excluded persons.

In order to bring social services closer to the beneficiaries in the rural environment and in the Roma communities, as well as to increase the number of people registered in own registers, the agency continued the activities of information and rendering of specific services, straight to the Roma communities, by means of **the Employment caravan for the Roma** caravans.

46,545 Roma persons of whom 19,637 women took part in actions carried out in Roma communities. 9,995 persons received counselling, of which 4,279 women. Also, 17,196 persons (6,583 women) were registered in the database and 3,753 (1,199 women) persons were employed. Educational programmes for Roma were also continued and extended, succeeding in **attracting and training the Roma human resources in the educational programme**, as motivating and multiplying factor for possible Roma human resources and students. In the 2006/2007 academic year, more than 250,000 Roma children participated, compared to the 2003/2004 school year, when 158,128 children were enrolled.

Families with children (especially single parent families and families with several children) are the most affected by the risk of social exclusion, according to the available statistic data.

¹¹ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDINGSOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg17

¹² STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDINGSOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg18

Taking into account the multidimensional aspect of social exclusion causes, a proper response to contribute to the prevention of this phenomenon among families with children can only be constituted by means of developing complex strategies and of setting up a coordination between all levels of decision, in order to facilitate its implementation. An effective and at the same time efficient solution is given by maintaining an adequate income within the family and focusing on developing a prevention system for this kind of situations on the long term.¹³

The main objective of the Romanian Government regarding the field of social inclusion refers to the continuation of efforts as to the development of an inclusive society based on providing integrated social inclusion services whose development is based on a genuine assessment of an individual's needs by developing the tertiary sector and by ensuring equal opportunities for all, with a particular focus on vulnerable persons. At the same time, solutions shall be sought in order to increase the involvement of individuals, families or communities in the decision-making process, as well as in the measure-implementation process, which is one of the flaws of the Romanian system. The main challenges over the next reference period, namely 2008 – 2010, focus on¹⁴:

- the prevention of social exclusion, the continuation of efforts to improve the access of citizens to their social rights;
- the development of multidimensional prevention programmes in order to avoid putting citizens into exclusion situations;
- the implementation of customised measures by means of aimed interventions when a potential risk is identified and could lead to an impairment on living conditions;
- improving the access to resources for families who are in social exclusion situations, which may contribute to increasing the level of well-being in the society;
- monitoring programmes developed by the responsible authorities and developing a reference system with a well-established periodicity regarding the progress being made;
- organising continuous sensitivity and awareness campaigns for citizens regarding their rights.

In order to deal with all these challenges, public authorities must focus their measures to ensuring the access of various institutions/bodies/authorities/public or private natural persons to the best and most efficient absorption possible of structural funds. The implementation of the commitments of this report benefits from the advantages of Romania's first cycle of access to structural funds.

2.5. Policy in 2010

2.5.1. Strategy

In 2010, as a consequence of the crisis and a new government installed in 2009, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection and its institutions went through a structuring reform that was mainly characterised through a severe decrease of personnel and a reduction of institutions.

¹³ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg18-19

¹⁴ STRATEGIC NATIONAL REPORT REGARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (2008 – 2010), Bucharest, September 2008, pg22

So, in accordance with the Law 329/2009 and the Ordinance of emergency of the Government nr.68/2010 the following institutions and department were abolished :

- The labour and social protection departments, their activities being transferred to the agencies of social assistance;
- The National Agency for Family Protection whose activities were transferred to the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights ;
- Social Inspection whose activities were transferred to the Labour Inspection and then in a general department , separately from the Labour Inspection;
- National Agency for Equality of Chances between Women and Men, whose activity was transferred as a direction in direct subordination of the Minister
- National Authority for Family Protection and Children's rights and the National Authority for Persons with Handicap, their activities being taken by a specific direction at the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection

In this new organizational context the following main objectives are :

- To identify, elaborate and promote a policy and normative regulations in the domain of labour , family and social protection in a total accordance with the Governing Program
- To coordinate the activity of approving projects of normative regulations initiated by the minister and to cooperate with the other ministries in achieving the proposed goals

In the domain of public policy 2 documents of such have been elaborated :

- 1.The National Strategy Promoting the Equality of Chances between Women and Men for 2010-2012
2. The National Strategy concerning the decrease of labour incidence

2.5.2. Activities and Action Plans

The Project concerning the Social Inclusion (2006-2012) is of a value of 47.2 M billion EURO and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection is responsible for programs of social assistance designated mainly to the persons with handicap, young people in risk situation and to the victims of family violence . The same ministry is responsible for the development of inclusion capacities of Roma population. Till now a total of 36 sub-projects have been selected with a value of 22.85 Billion EURO.

Programs of National Interest

Program of National Interest: Fighting against Social Exclusion of the Persons without Shelter by Creating Social Emergency Centres is working after new regulations elaborated in 2010 and refers to the people with handicap, social assistance for seniors , persons without shelter and victims of family violence. It provides 40 projects of which :

- 29 are finalized
- 5 have been cancelled
- 6 are still in development

In 2010 a total amount of 325.000 EUR have been granted by the ministry for 17 projects.

Another **Program of National Interest is that concerned o the Financing of NGO's** working in social assistance activity, program addresses to associations and foundations with an amount of 5.000.000 EUR. It consists of social services supporting monthly a number of 15.687 beneficiaries through 322 social assistance units.

For the **young people who leave the system of social protection**, as well as for the **victims of family violence** the government approved through the Ordinance 669/2006 grants of 4.559.062 EUR financing the legal and institutional framework for integrating young people who leave the social protection system of children, and the victims of family violence.

In the domain of **child's protection** several programs and projects have been supported by the national policy respecting the following objectives:

- Raising the awareness of local communities in the domain of protecting the children's rights and of the victims of family violence
- Training of the personnel working in this domain
- Coordination of accredited services of social assistance and diversifying them into a coherent system of social protection

Monitoring activity of the general departments of children social protection

From the existing 3.180 administrative territorial units in Romania, services of public social assistance (SPAS) are only in 714 municipalities, towns and villages, with a total of 9.390 persons as staff, from which 24% are with academic background(9%) and post high school training and 67% have not got specific training background. From the total amount of staff only 1.942 participated in training programs during 2010 on items regarding the rights of children and the victims of family violence.

Projects

In the report of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection in the field of family violence we can mention the following :

“Teachers from social assistance and the health against violence” financed by the European Commission through the Program Lifelong Learning Program. In this project the Ministry is a partner involved in the dissemination of the results of the project being active in sustaining the necessity of training for the professionals working in the field of health and social assistance for the victims of family violence in the couple. This project ended in September 2010.

“The participation of vulnerable groups in the social economy “, funded from the European Social Fund, on the axis :Promotion of Social Inclusion and addressed to Roma people and developed from 2008 by a cooperation between institutions working in the public system of social assistance and accredited services belonging to NGO's. (National Agency for Family Protection, National Agency for Anti Drug, National Administration of the Penitentiaries, Romanian Group for Defending Human Rights, Association Transcena, Foundation for Reform of the Penal Justice, Foundation Ramses, National Agency for Roma People, Association Targoviste towards Europe)

- **A series of projects dedicated to the scholar abandon**
- **Projects promoting equality of chances between women and men (a strategy for this new government for 2010-2012)** concerning the counseling of women in situation of family or social risk. (network of the pilot mobile and fix centre for women ESTHIA)
- **Projects facilitating the participation of the Roma women** on the labour market and social inclusion where the prevention of domestic violence is one objective

2.5.3. Inter-institutional relationships and those with social stakeholders involved in prevention and fight against family violence according to the legal framework

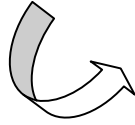
Legend:

Referring to victims →

Cooperation ↔

Monitoring ⇨

Financing



Ministry of Labor Family and Social Protection -MMFES – (Ministerul Muncii, Familiei și Egalității de Șanse)

National Agency for Family Protection ANPF – (Agenția Națională pentru Protecția Familiei)

Ministry of Justice -MJ – (Ministerul Justiției)

Ministry of Public Health -MSP – (Ministerul Sănătății Publice)

National Authority for Children's Rights Protection- ANPDC – (Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția Drepturilor Copilului)

National Authority for Persons with Handicap -ANPH- Autoritatea Națională pentru Persoanele cu Handicap

Ministry of Interior and Administration- MIRA – Ministerul Internelor și Reformei Administrative

National Agency for Equal Chances between Women and Men -ANES – Agenția Națională pentru Egalitate de Șanse între Femei și Barbați

Public Local Service for Social Assistance -SPLAS – Serviciul Public Local de Asistență Socială

General Direction for Children's Assistance and Protection -DGASPC – Direcția Generală de Asistență și Protecția Copilului

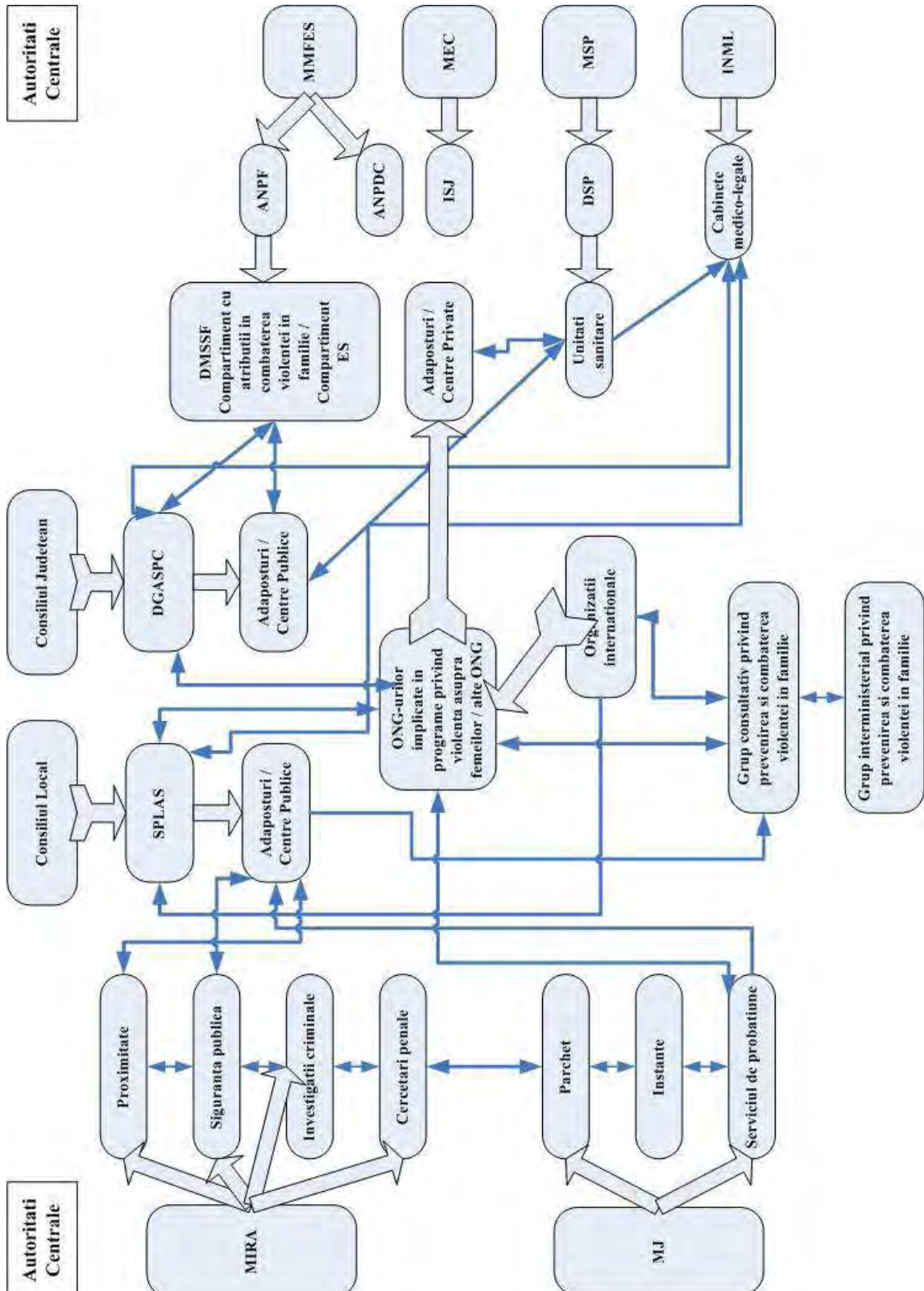
Direction for Labor and Social Solidarity and Family- DMSSF – Direcția de Muncă, Solidaritate Socială și Familie

Direction for Public Health -DSP – Direcția de Sănătate Publică

District School Inspectorate- IȘJ – Inspectoratul Școlar Județean

National Institute for Legal Medicine -INML – (Institutul Național de Medicină Legală „Mina Minovici”)

District Service for legal Medicine -SJML – Serviciul Județean de Medicină Legală



¹⁵MINISTRY OF LABOR, FAMILY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION: **Raportul ministerului muncii, familiei si protectiei sociale pentru anul 2010**

On 1 February 2003 the National Coalition of NGOs involved in programs on violence against women was founded. This act took place in the Conference on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, organized by the Center for Equal Partnership (CEP) and the Women's Health Initiative in Romania, under a program funded by USAID .

The main objectives of this meeting were: creation of a common core of intervention and action on issues of domestic violence in Romania by a coalition of NGOs active in this field, launching the process of structuring the National Strategy for Prevention, Monitoring and Control of Domestic Violence, and initiate a dialogue between governmental structures, which put up a long term relationship of complementarities between these structures, with benefits in political, social and community level. The National Coalition of NGOs is an informal structure, without legal personality, which brings together a total of 33 organizations with an average age of 5 years in the field, some of them reaching an average age of 10 years.

Member organizations of the Coalition are: Centre for Partnership and Equality, communities **Constanta** Foundation Center for Legal Resources, Bucharest Sensiblu Foundation, Bucharest PASS Center, **Brasov** Bethany Foundation, Society for Children and Parents - PURPOSE, **Timisoara, Sibiu** ARAPAMESU; Association Femina 2000, the Roman FILBAC Foundation, **Bacau**, Pro Familia, **Bistrita**, Ladies Society, Center for Mediation and Community Security, Activ Catharsis Association, U.S.; Association of Women Against Violence - Artemis, **Cluj**, Association of Women Against Violence - ARTEMIS, **Baia-Mare** ; Fundatia Family and Child Care, Bucharest, CARITAS, **Satu-Mare**, Foundation Connections, **Deva**, TRANSCENA Association, Bucharest, Center GRADO **Buftea** POLIMED APAC, National Union of Women in Romania, East European Institute for Reproductive Health, Association for promotion Women in Romania, Timisoara RuralMed, Zeletin; Jumalistelor Association of Romania - Ariana, VERITAS Foundation, **Sighisoara**, ALTERNATE STEP Association, CONCEPT Foundation .

The coalition was divided into working groups on these specific areas: legislation, lobbying and image, institutional development, strategy and standards.

One of the most important activities of NGOs which advocate for the prevention and combating domestic violence is the work of carrying out information campaigns on this phenomenon. Information campaigns are quite often an element of strategies to combat and combat domestic violence. Most often they are initiated and financed by the state, but given their high cost, additional funds are state funds and private donations. The high cost and difficulties related to the organization and implementation is why public awareness campaigns are carried out only a limited time.

2.6.Conclusion

In all these projects or activities the accent was put on the cooperation between governmental and non governmental institutions and organizations, on issues related not only at legal level, but especially on good practices to be transferred and implemented on the spot.

3.SOCIO –CULTURAL LEVEL

3.1.Some of the myths referring to family violence¹⁶

In Europe one of 5 women is aggressed in the family; 1,8 billion children are aggressed each year and not all cases are reported their number being probably higher. In Romania it is not compulsory to report the cases. So, there is no obligation to do conclusive statistics in the domain. The physical aggression appears in relationship in which the aggressor already controls the partner by fear. The physical aggression is only a form of violence generally being also accompanied by some other behaviour described such as intimidation, threatening, psychological abuse or the victims isolation. Studies show that only 10% of the aggressors from the family present psychic disturbances. The rest of 90% are not affected from the point of view of mental capacity and the control over one's own reactions and behaviour. Family violence manifests in all the social-cultural environment without exception. There have been registered numerous cases of interfamilial violence also among persons with academic education and a high social status.

It is possible that this prejudice starts from the idea that people with a academic studies and high incomes can easier solve a conflict within the family. The fact is that the victims coming from this environment report more difficult the aggressions due to shame, social pressure or the fear that their image could be affected in their social and professional environment.

Without specialised assistance, the alternative interfamilial methods to solve the conflicts produce most often the contrary effect, consolidating even the position of the aggressor and intensifying the feeling of vulnerability of the victim.

The Victims accept or don't answer to a violent relation out of fear. They perceive the danger to be bigger if they leave the family and come to be afraid of the security of their children. Many aggressors kill their victims when the latter have the courage to leave them.

Some statements representative for our mentality :

- **The domestic violence is not so extended or serious**
- **The beating appears in a moment of losing one's mind**
- **Family violence appears only in poor families and at persons lacking education**
- **The solving of interfamilial violence should be done in the family**
- **The victims accept aggression.**

In most cases , the victim woman has no resources to break a relationship after the first aggression against her, the reasons being the emotional and financial dependence from the aggressor, the presence of the children and the limited resources for their raising , the lack of trust and low self respect of lack of social and familiar support .

The alcohol is not a cause of family violence, it is a risk factor. Not all men drinking alcohol aggress their partners. Consuming alcohol does not justify the use of violence.

¹⁶ ASOCIATIA BAROULUI AMERICAN-Initiativa Juridica pentru Europa Centrala si Eurasia: **Violenta în familie în România:legislatia si sistemul judiciar, RAPORT FINAL**, 30 Aprilie, 2007

Anybody can become a victim of family violence. Although, generally speaking statistics show that most victims are women, a percent is represented by men. The elder persons and the children represent two very vulnerable categories.

- **If violence were so serious, the woman would break her relationship with her partner.**
- **Consuming alcohol is the cause of family violence**
- **Only women are victims of family violence**

4.INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

4.1. Social Workers and service providers

4.1.1 Types of employees in the DV

- social workers, social assistants, psychologists
- public servants, contractual staff in the central and local public administration structures, budgetary personnel. Denominations of the main functions that occupy these categories of staff are: inspector, referee, counsellor
- lawyers, jurists ,legal advisors, jurist consults
- medical staff
- psychologists
- police workers

4.1.2 Specific role of each category

For each category of employees job descriptions are prepared in accordance with internal regulations of the institutions or public authority where they carry out their activities. There are job responsibilities, level of education provided by the post-elementary schools, high school, technical school, college studies , university studies. They also include rights and obligations of employee and job specific tasks depending on their requested area of jurisdiction.

Some employees are advised to participate in the activity of a specific professional association. In this case they have to acquire their respective professional code of ethics and respect it . It's about especially doctors, medical staff lawyer, jurists.

4.1.3 Quality of service

The main services provided, are:

- counseling
- protection of victims
- education and information
- psychotherapy

4.1.4 The places where the victims can address

In Romania victims could apply to the following institutions, public administration and public service organizations:

- Units for hospital emergency interventions: doctor, medical staff for medical care;
- Police to complain against the aggressor;
- Institute (service laboratory) Forensic Science to obtain medical certificate;
- General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection to receive specific social services where counseling centers work;
- Centers of domestic violence (shelters, recovery centers for victims of domestic violence), to benefit for temporary housing, social, psychological and legal assistance , social and professional reintegration, information or referrals to other institutions (existing not in all counties in Romania);

- A non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide specialized social services for victims of domestic violence;
- Labor and Social Protection Directorate at the Department for Fighting against Domestic Violence to obtain information, advice and guidance for the competent institutions;
- Judicial Authorities to address penal complaints against the aggressors, to request material and moral damage, division of property, divorce, custody of minor children.

In Romania, there are now:

- 50 shelters for victims of domestic violence (600 seats);
- two recovery centers;
- two centers of information and awareness;
- six centers that address the aggressors.

4.I.5 Forms of professional training .Places where this training takes place

Nowadays domestic violence is an optional individual subject in the Master's study for risk groups and social support services.

A good practice in this respect is the Health College Fundeni-Bucuresti that implements in Romania the project named Hevi - Teachers of health and social care against violence, implemented also in Finland, Ireland, Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia and Latvia. The project provides teachers in continuing education of health and social care a **teaching guide** on counseling the victims of intimate partner violence. "By engaging in this project we want to support victims of domestic violence with the help of professionals in the medical and social assistance domains. Also, with their help, we want to contribute to reducing this phenomenon," said Crin Marcean, General Manager of Health College Fundeni, Bucuresti . A free manual is provided by the College Fundeni . Unfortunately, it will now be included in school curricula only as an optional modules.

4.2. Victims

4.2.1. Description of Roma people as a main marginalised group¹⁷

Today Romania is still confronted with discrimination and racism at all levels of society. Average income per person of Roma is far below that of society in general and life expectancy is ten years less. However, important steps towards the Roma community has become an ethnic minority in the modern sense, as members of Romanian society and not as a just tolerated group. Integration brings a danger of assimilation (loss of ethnic and cultural identity.). Many Roma organizations are aware of it, so that programs to promote Roma culture and language are of equal importance to those seeking to improve social and economic conditions.

¹⁷ MINISTRY OF LABOR, FAMILY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, Directia Programe Includiune Sociala: **Analiza influentei acordarii principalelor transferuri sociale asupra saraciei absolute în anul 2009 &** MINISTRY OF LABOR, FAMILY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION: **Raportul ministerului muncii, familiei si protectiei sociale pentru anul 2010**

Some Roma children are victims of abuse. As a phenomenon in which the abuse occurs when adults apply harmful treatments to their children provoking them organic wounds or psychic disorders. Many families resorting to such methods use their own children, regardless of their age in order to obtain incomes, even by begging. Roma children are sometimes psychologically abused, so that their psychological development is affected by the application of sadistic and terror treatment by the adults, misunderstanding of their possibilities, emotional abandonment or absurd punishments. They also may be subject to sexual abuse both in and outside their family.

the situation of Roma children is a critical one, most of them belonging to extremely poor families. Poverty and deprivations of Roma families, the prejudices that persist in the minds of people, the inertia of Roma parents to offer their children perspectives of education, contribute to the marginalization of Roma children, to the limitation of their access to equal opportunities. Statistical data justify the need for projects aiming to improve the situation of Roma children.

- Only 20% of Roma children attend kindergarten to prepare for school;
- 20% are not enrolled in school;
- 30% drop out before graduating from secondary school;
- About 50% are illiterate or half-illiterate

Respect and implementing the right to education of Roma children is the main condition for improving their future. But there are many obstacles they face: poverty, unfriendly atmosphere in schools, lack of adequate pre-training. The latter is one of the reasons for school failure among Roma children.

Schools are facing several difficulties, including:

- Regular non-attendance rates;
- Leaving the village for long periods of time and travelling from home with their parents;
- lack of motivation of the parents to complete the courses motivating the precarious material situation, and the existence of many children;
- Non-interference and non-cooperation of Roma community with the regular school institutions;
- Non-qualified teachers who know the Romany language and want to use it as institutionalized language in schools ;

There are also special problems of integration, due to difficult socio-economic situation of Roma families who live in :

- Dysfunctional-family;
- Lack of permanent income sources;
- lack of interest for the school;
- Primitive living conditions (lack of food, clothing, comfort, etc.)
- Serious health problems (retardation, disability, etc.).

If at the beginning of the school year all Roma children of school age register and present themselves at school, not all of them remain at school to the end of the school year, they leave after some time. Although the number of Roma children is very high in some schools, very

few children remain until graduation. The Roma children have difficulties to integrate in the community, have a tendency to destroy, to leave classes, have many truants. Girls from 13 to 14 early school years abandon school for marriage or cohabitation. Many parents take them abroad and then return to school, but only for the benefit of the state monthly allowance. Others are left with grandparents who are too old or too poor, and not at all concerned with their school situation. Most of the families from which the children come have very difficult living conditions or are coming from disorganized families. These families cannot provide children a rational diet, which has serious consequences for the physical and mental health and can not provide the necessary requisites to be able to fit school requirements.

Abandonment, extreme poverty, lack of social services tailored to the needs of these children have increased the number of Roma children living in the street. They survive by adapting continuously to the inhuman conditions of the street, to get the money by working, begging, petty theft or prostitution. The attitude toward the family is confused or indifferent. Memories of institutional life, or life spent in the street dominate. Their hygiene is totally improper and their behaviour is strongly influenced by the environment of the street. They can be found in sewers, subway stations, abandoned construction sites, etc.. Almost all of them use "glue", alcohol and tobacco.

4.2.2. Statistical and demographical information about these groups

In Romania, during 2004-2009 there were 59,795 cases of domestic violence, of which **778 led to death of the victim**, as indicated by a report of the National Agency for Family Protection ANPF. The refusal of victims to seek help prevent specialists to take real measures to fight the phenomenon. Thus, most victims are between 0-14 years (17.65%), 37% of the victims sought medical-legal certificates, only 30% had complained to police and a small percentage, 2%, have filed for divorce in Juridical Courts, says the report. The consequences are reflected not only on the victim but on the whole family (especially children) and socio-professional environment.

Most victims are women. A WHO report published five years ago show that between 5 and 45% of women in Europe have been assaulted by intimate partners at some point in their lives.

b. the ways through which these groups experience DV; the most widespread DV forms

From a clinical point of view a widely accepted definition of domestic violence is made by Stark and Flitcraft:

"Domestic violence is a threat or a challenge, happening in the past or in the present, of a physical injury in the relationship between social partners, regardless of their legal status or residence."

It's called "domestic violence" any injurious act, physically or emotionally that occurs between family members.

Physical assault (including sexual assault here), which in some cases may even lead to death of a partner. may be accompanied by:

- intimidation or verbal abuse;
- destruction of property belonging to victims;
- isolation from friends, family or other potential sources of support;
- threats made against other persons significant to the victim, including children;

- absurd interdictions like those mentioned by one of the victims: "I'm not allowed to wash clothes only when he permits me, I'm not allowed to go to the store, I'm not allowed to talk on the phone, I have to do general cleaning only when he wants, if I go to a friend he calls me many times both me and my friend and her family members and he asks me many other things "
- thefts;
- control over the money, the victim's personal belongings, food, travel, telephone and other sources of care and protection.

Physical violence (elsewhere called emotional violence)

- threat of withdrawal of love and protection
- a perverse use of reasoning which submits the victim to some logical contradictions
- paradoxical communication from which the victim is not allowed to evade and whose culpability falls on her

c.level of awareness: education and information among the victims DV

Experts who are researching this problem agree that violence is a widespread phenomenon, more prevalent than polls show, for the simple reason that some facts are not reported to the police or hospitals.

The family that is a field of manifestation of domestic violence becomes less transparent and open to the immediate social environment: the extended family, neighbours, friends and colleagues. The social isolation of these families is obvious. It becomes a stigma in the eyes of others and at the same time a sense of stigma and guilt that makes them isolate themselves.

The violent husband does not want his wife to maintain social relations within which she could testify her suffering and possibly can be supported.

On the other hand, violent men are characterised by the lack of skills and joy of communication. For the violent partners, to communicate in the intimate environment of the home becomes more an opportunity to attack the other verbally, while, at work communication remains a routine of superficial relationships with others, a role played within the office hours

Involving authorities and cooperation between institutions
 However much they try to hide their suffering victims, there are situations when it comes to the surface, at which experts or persons to whom the victim may be addressed to intervene and help. **Whether they arrive at a medical office or at a police station, identifying and managing such situations is a process rather than an act in itself**, so cooperation between institutions is extremely important.

In terms of medical staff, it can not directly solve a situation of domestic violence, but often the intervention and how it works can make the difference. It is not enough to treat medical physical wounds. It should be able to recognize signs of violence and should guide the user to institutions where he/she can find help.

In Romania, the issue of domestic violence began to be publicly recognized since the early '90s, but the training of specialists in this field did not go very far.

d. needs, gaps and deficits

One of the main deficit is **the failure of the authorities involved.**

The main causes could be the economic crisis materialized in a lack of financial resources in the budget for programs to prevent and fight DV, as well as the lack of results in public administration reform.

Another problem is the law. Romanian legislation contains no restraining order for the aggressor. When a man is beating his wife and children, she calls the police, but the police can only draw up a report and gives the aggressor a fine. After that the abuser returns where? At home, where he finds his wife and his children. And you can guess what could happen!

There are no policemen to be specialized in domestic violence, as they exist in other countries. In Brazil for example policewomen handle these cases, counting on the empathy of women.

e. Risk factors

We live with the false impression that domestic violence exists only in the lower stratum of society, that the victims are "poor", who are unable to leave an abusive relationship or the abused person could stop the abuse, if he/she is sufficiently determined. It is true that financial problems are a risk factor and may cause aggressive reactions, but the domestic violence is the result of the need of a person to demonstrate to th partner that he keeps the control, that the power is in his hands. Statistics show that the problem is found equally in the lower social classes, as well as in the middle and high social classes.

So, **financial problems** are a vulnerability factor, but we still have **behavioural needs** in order to demonstrate the need of a person to demonstrate to the partner, that he keeps the control , that the power is in his hands.

Mentality:

The road between "deserved a beating," it's for this/her good ", " she/he looked for it with the candle", " spanking is torn from heaven "(especially when it comes to the violence used by parents for their children), and deep physical and mental wounds, is measured in punches regardless the social class. These expressions give the impression, in the collective mentality, that domestic violence is not necessarily a bad thing, but ,on the contrary, it can sometimes have an educational role , down to the consideration even that violence can be something achieved, not harming , but being usegful for the victim. It is obvious that this ancestral, collective reasoning is harmful and causes confusion among both the perpetrators and the victims. Usually the family keeps appearances in public, the attacks occur "behind closed doors, and sometimes the victim does not admit even in front of herself/himself that it is subject of an abuse, especially if it is a psychological one. Hence the difficulty of institutions and professionals to identify and intervene in these cases.

Domestic violence is a serious risk to the health of the victim. Besides the immediate effects on physical and mental health, violence increases the risk of acquiring serious long term health problems.

Consequences on physical health:

- self-destructive behaviour (smoking, unprotected sex);
- Consumption of alcohol or drugs;
- gastrointestinal disorders;
- asthma
- headaches and migraines;
- personal injury;
- partial or permanent disabilities;
- death.

Consequences on psychic health or mental state:

- depression;
- anxiety, fear;
- low self-esteem;
- sexual dysfunction;
- nutrition and sleep disorders;
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder;
- posttraumatic stress disorder;
- suicide.

Consequences on reproductive health include :

- unwanted pregnancy;
- gynaecological problems;
- premature births;
- low birth weight child resulting from a destructive relationship;
- pelvic inflammatory disease;
- Chronic pelvic pain;
- Infant and maternal mortality and morbidity.

The effects of domestic violence

on women

- lack of trust in themselves
- self under valorisation, feeling of incapacity
- fear of aggressor and dependence from him
- depression serious psychic disturbances
- self culpability
- temptatives of suicide, selfdestructive behaviour
- Social isolation (family, friends, colleagues)
- emotional instability

on children

- difficulties of school and inter personal adaptation
- leaving home and school
- poor school results going to school abandonment
- shyness, fear or aggression towards the people around
- alcohol, tobacco and drug consume

- diminishing of attention and concentration power
- nightmares and difficulties in getting asleep
- lack of self esteem
- self guilt for personal problems
- generalised anxiety
- somatic emotions : headaches, stomachaches and other affections
- delinquency risk

CONCLUSIONS

Data on the prevalence of family violence in Romania are fragmented and are mostly based on the emotional impact that media messages have on the public, making it aware of this issue. Scientific studies in this area are relatively few, and official data reflect to a small extent the amplitude of the interfamily violence, as this manifest nowadays in our country.

A more detailed and adequate knowledge of this specific form of violence that is going on mostly in the private space, is absolutely necessary, both to provide an objective indication of bodies able to provide a secure environment in the family and to mobilize various resources in order to prevent the activity.

The prevalence of violence between family members depends on many factors, including: norms and social values, traditions and cultural habits, relations between the sexes and generations, the level of economic development, degree of culture and civilization, the organization and operation of social institutions, can enable a community intervention etc. Therefore, any strategy that aims to mitigate or eliminate violence in the family must take into account both the social structures, and existing cultural mindset, which maintain and perpetuate a social problem that affects primarily the community spirit. To be effective, an appropriate strategy in improving and preventing family violence must be based on precise objectives and sustain effectively by human and logistic resources both with government and nongovernmental character.

From this point of view, the legislative initiative aiming a more adequate protection of the victims and punishing more drastically the perpetrators, the more severe intervention, (but protected by abuses) of the authorities, including the police, in easing the conflict situations, the more active involvement of the social assistance in the cases of interfamilial violence, the development of national prevention and education programs to teach children and young

people to solve conflicts through nonviolent ways, the design of actions to assist victims and treatment for abusers, are just some of the measures that could be premises in designing of a major strategy at national level to combat and prevent this phenomenon, which manifests itself so heavily in Romania.

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Exchange House
National Travellers Service
Great Strand Street 61
Dublin 1, Ireland
www.exchangehouse.ie
info@www.exchangehouse.ie



IEIE – International Education
Information Exchange
Hölderlinplatz 2A
70193 Stuttgart, Germany
www.ieie.de, info@ieie.de



Verein Multikulturell
Bruneckerstraße 2 d, 3. Stock
6020 Innsbruck, Austria
www.migration.cc
office@migration.cc



ANUP- International
Bd. Nicolae Titulescu, nr.
163, sector 1, Bucuresti , cod
011137, Romania
www.updalles.ro
ileanaboeru@yahoo.com



PROLEPSIS
PARTNERSHIP
Prolepsis
Institute of Preventive Medicine
Environmental & Occupational Health
7 Fragoklisias Street, 151 25, Marousi
Athens Greece
www.prolepsis.gr, info@prolepsis.gr