



## CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF VULNERABILITY: EVALUATIONS, PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Piatra Neamț, Romania, 23 May 2024

### CONCEPT

Recent global developments have exacerbated the vulnerable situation of marginalised communities both at European and international levels. Challenges linked to war, the consequences of Covid-19 pandemic, the effect of labour migration on children, poverty and discrimination accentuate the situation and require for complex issues to be addressed on systemic levels.

The **Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)**, the **EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child**, as well as the **National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights "Protected Children, Safe Romania" 2023-2027 (HG 969/ 2023)** are the three benchmarks in approaching the theme of this event.

With particular focus on marginalised and vulnerable communities such as the Roma, the [\*\*Strategic Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Roma and Traveller Inclusion 2020-2025\*\*](#) addresses the disadvantaged situation of Roma by focusing on three main priority areas: promoting and protecting the human rights of Roma and Travellers, combating antigypsyism and discrimination, and fostering inclusion in society.

To address the issue of violence against children, in 2023, the Council of Europe adopted a **Recommendation on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children [CM/Rec\(2023\)8](#)**. It includes guidance for member States in developing, strengthening and monitoring effective national systems for professionals and volunteers for reporting all forms of violence against children, as essential elements of national strategies address these issues alongside integrated and multidisciplinary child protection systems. Moreover, the recently adopted **Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls](#)** mentions the fact that the vulnerability of Roma women and girls puts them at greater risk of other forms of violence, including human trafficking and domestic, sexual and other forms of violence and that Member States should work on their prevention while establishing victim protection services and designing, funding and implementing, with the involvement of women and girls, public awareness campaigns and relevant training programmes.

Inadequate housing and conditions in which children live, do homework or play, as well as the lack of resources for proper nutrition are aspects of poverty that need to be addressed at local and national level. Education, access to social assistance or health services are essential for overcoming situations of vulnerability. In addition, there is a need to address new issues arising from substance abuse, human trafficking or cyberbullying that require adequate knowledge, skills and resources. With the raise of labour migration, the children left behind by parents going abroad for work are particularly at risk of being affected by these phenomena, in the context of poor / inadequate support structures and protection services. In this regard, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has recognized in its **Recommendation 2196 (2021) on Impact of labour**



**migration on “left-behind” children** that the impact of labour migration is often underestimated, and that left-behind children are a particularly vulnerable group that is largely invisible and not given sufficient attention.

The event "Children in situations of vulnerability: evaluations, problems and proposed solutions" is the framework within which the authorities and relevant institutions / organisations from the national level in Romania can present the current situation and expertise from the field, based on direct evaluations, identified problems and solutions. The multiple facets of children's vulnerabilities make it necessary to collaborate and share knowledge, approaches and identify the most appropriate measures while bringing forward proposals to improve existing policies and practices in the field.

## CONTEXT

The ROMACT Programme aimed at strengthening political will and understanding of Roma inclusion at local and regional level was developed based on existing European and national policy frameworks for Roma inclusion. It has been implemented by the Council of Europe and the European Commission since 2013.

The Programme acknowledges that local and national measures are crucial for bringing improvements in Roma communities in key areas such as education, social assistance, housing, employment, and health.

ROMACT methodology emphasizes the involvement of individuals from marginalised communities in developing solutions and projects that target them and aligns with European social inclusion policies supporting also the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy at local level.

For more details on ROMACT, you can visit the official website of the Programme at <https://coe-romact.org/country/romania>



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- [DRAFT AGENDA] –

23 May 2024 – Piatra Neamț

**09.30 – 10.00**

**Registration of participants**

**10.00 – 10.30**

**Opening of the event**

- Andrei CARABELEA – Mayor, Piatra Neamț Municipality
- Ana OPRÎȘAN – Cooperation Programmes Manager/Roma and Travellers Division/Anti-discrimination Department/Directorate General of Equal Rights and Dignity/Roma and Travellers Division
- Representatives of central authorities
- Rareș-Petru ACHIRILOAIE – President, National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption
- Eugen ȚAPU NAZARE – Member of Parliament, Parliament of Romania, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Cooperation Process in South-Eastern Europe
- Tudor POLAK – Member of Parliament, Romanian Parliament, secretary of the Commission for Labour and Social Protection
- Ioan ASAFTEI – President, Neamț County Council
- Valentin IVANCEA – President, Bacău County Council
- Adrian BOURCEANU – Prefect, Neamț Prefect Institution

**10.30 – 11.30**

**SESIUNEA 1: LOCUIRE, RESURSE DE TRAI ȘI SĂNĂTATE**

- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated) – Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration: Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated) – Ministry of Investments and European Projects/ Social Inclusion and Dignity Program (PoIDS) 2021-2027: Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated) – Ministry of Health: Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Radu FIERĂSTRĂU – Director, Directorate of Public Health Neamț: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Irina ȘTIRBU – Administration of the housing fund in the city, Piatra Neamț City Hall: Allocation of social housing for disadvantaged groups
- Florin BOTONOGU – Expert, ROMACT Program Romania: Housing improvement plan for social groups - Focșani



- Laura CATARIG – Head of Development Office, Iernut City Hall: Construction of social housing in Iernut (model of good practice)

### Questions & Answers

**11.30 – 11.45**

**Coffee break**

**11.45 – 13.30**

### SESSION 2: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)*, Ministry of Education: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Rareș-Petru ACHIRILOAIE – President, National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Giacomo SOLARI – Head of the Financial Support Unit, Embassy of Switzerland in Romania: The second Swiss contribution for Romania: Programs for social inclusion and civic involvement
- Florentina LUCA-MOISE – Vice Mayor, Piatra Neamț City Hall: The interaction between education, social assistance and health
- Lidia ROȘIAN – Executive Director, Directorate of Social Assistance Reșița: Integrated approach in social assistance (Reșița case study)
- Ana BEREA – Executive Director, Directorate of Social Assistance Piatra Neamț: Challenges and possible solutions
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – COPSA MICĂ: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*

### Questions & Answers

**13.30 – 14.30**

**Lunch break**

**14.30 – 15.30**

### SESSION 3: NEW CHALLENGES – ADDICTIONS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ONLINE HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (I)

- Alexander SEGER – Head of Cyber Security Unit, Council of Europe: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – National Council for Combating Discrimination: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men – Domestic violence: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – National Antidrug Agency: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*



- Prof. Melania PLEȘA – Director, Neamț County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*

### Questions & Answers

**15.30 –15.45**

**Coffee break**

**15.45 – 17.00**

### **SESSION 3: NEW CHALLENGES – ADDICTIONS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ONLINE HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (II)**

- Valentin CADERE, Deputy Director and Deputy Commissioner Nicoleta TABIAN – Neamț County Police Inspectorate: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Ionuț CIOCOIU – General School Inspector, Neamț County School Inspectorate: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Cristina PĂVĂLUĂ – Director, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Neamț: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- Anca SANDU - President, Neamț Bar Association: "Be a lawyer in your school!" project (good practice)
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – PROTECT Platform / ELIBERARE Association: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*
- *Name, surname and position (to be communicated)* – ALIAT Clinic: *Title of intervention (to be communicated)*

### Questions & Answers

### CONCLUSIONS