



**Romania's response to the national good practices
to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic**

The Government of Romania approved recently the implementation of a National Support program for Children, in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Elaborated by a complex Committee of Experts from various fields of activity, such as education, health, social protection, internal affairs, etc. the national program aims at improving the living conditions for children, as an answer to the effects generated by the Covid-19 pandemic on children from the perspective of their emotional, psychological wellness, but also in relation to the risks associated with the on-line environment or domestic violence.

The risks generated by the present pandemic situation generated in time, besides the sanitary emergencies other risks factors which in time lead to a new category of invisible children, with higher risks of vulnerability to sexual violence, physical or psychological one, as well as to neglect.

The program is structured on different areas of intervention, such as:

- Skills development for the specialists who directly interact with children
- Psycho-emotional education for children, adapted for different age categories and school cycles,
- Information and resources for parents and children
- Facilitating access to psychological intervention and therapy for children

Thus, Romania is one of the first European countries that made a priority out of the psycho emotional health of children, but also their safety, in the context of the new types of threats are exposed to.

The national program will offer>

- 70.000 hours of psychological and psycho-therapy counselling for the children who are identified with psycho-emotional problems generated by the Covid-19 Pandemic,
- The introduction of new themes within the school curricula, such as, psycho-emotional education, emotion management, on-line safety
- Training sessions for at least 7000 specialists

- Introduction of a new training module for teachers in order to improve their competencies in the field of relations and emotions management
- Setting up hearing rooms for children in each county of Romania
- Implementation of an alert mechanism for missing children,
- Setting up an unique toll-free line for emergency cases involving children
- Developing an on-line platform of resources for children and parents.

The program is to be implemented within a period of 2 years, while the budget allocated is of 6 mil. Euros.