

Good practice from Romania under the following requests from the questionnaire:

- Collected data, including updated data on vulnerable groups of children and information pertinent to the reporting examples of vulnerable groups of children under the framework of SDGs
- The manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation in relation to targets 5.3: which provides to end all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage; 8.7: which provides to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms; and 16.2: which provides to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. These manifestations may include children on the move (migrants, conflict-affected, refugees, asylum-seekers, street situations, displaced including climate and disaster related), children from marginalized groups (indigenous, minorities, rural and urban settings), and children with disabilities.

Intersectoral County Team for the prevention and combat of violence against children

Description

Intersectoral County Team for the prevention and combat of violence against children (ICT) is established in each county and district of Bucharest through decision of the county council, respectively decision of the local councils of the districts of Bucharest.

There are 41 counties in Romania and 6 districts of Bucharest. In 2020, there were 53 ICTS out of which 37 extended (for both violence against children and domestic violence), 1 for violence against children, 4 for child labour, 7 for domestic violence and 4 not operational (due to pandemic reason). In 1 district and 5 counties, there are still 2 ICTs established.

The diversity of ICTs is due to the fact that the initial ICT was dedicated to child labour starting with 2002. Since 2011, ICTs started to extend their attributions in order to address all forms of violence against children and domestic violence according to the Government Decision no. 49/2011 for approval of the Framework methodology for multidisciplinary and network prevention and intervention in cases of violence against children and domestic violence (Annex 1) and the Methodology for multidisciplinary and interinstitutional intervention on exploited children and those at risk of child labour, child victims of human trafficking, and Romanian migrant children victims of other forms of violence on the territory of other states (Annex 2). The recommendation for unification of multiple ICTs at the level of the counties/ districts of Bucharest was stipulated in order to avoid parallel structures and waste of resources.

ICTs are coordinated by General Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection (GDASPC) and the minimum structure includes representatives from GDASPC, police, gendarmeries, health, education, labour inspection and NGOs.

The main role of the ICT is to organize prevention activities. Also, they offer technical assistance to multidisciplinary teams that solve child violence cases and monitor the overall situation of child victims. Annual activity of ICTs is centralized by the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (NAPRCA). Also, NAPRCA provides methodological coordination to all ICTs through its unit which was established in 2004.

In 2020, there were reported 623 prevention activities in 35 counties and 2 districts of Bucharest, addressed to 837,376 beneficiaries, out of which 683,904 children. Out of the total number of

623 prevention activities, the following were targeted to specific forms of violence against children, as requested by the UNHCR questionnaire:

- Child labour: 19 activities with 7,348 beneficiaries, out of which 6,634 children;
- Sexual exploitation: 5 activities with 293 beneficiaries, out of which 264 children;
- Trafficking in human beings: 74 activities with 39,870 beneficiaries, out of which 32,837 children.

NAPRCA provides statistics on child abuse, neglect and exploitation, which are available on its website starting with 2008. Annual reports of ICTs details some of these statistics, such as child labour (worst forms of child labour and hazardous child labour) and sexual exploitation (child pornography on the internet) and add data regarding: foreign unaccompanied children asylum seeker with representative nominated by GDASPC, children performing paid artistic, sport, modeling and publicity activities, pregnant women and mothers under 18 years of age.

What makes it a good practice

The model of ICT was created by ILO-IPEC Romania which was implemented during 2000-2009. Initial trainings at national level took place in 2002 for social protection, police and labour inspection and then many other trainings were provided by NGOs and NAPRCA. The most recent is in process of implementation and it is provided online by NAPRCA.

Institutionalization and countrywide replication of the ICTs proved that this model is a good practice and it was presented as good practice to IPSCAN Conference in 2007 that took place in Portugal.

ICT is a strategic and useful tool to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of child violence legislation and measures. The result is a more active involvement of and closer cooperation between all the institutions concerned, enabling them to carry out their prevention and monitoring activities.

Good practice from Romania under the following request from the questionnaire:

- **Practical measures taken to address the vulnerabilities in institutional, family and online settings to ensure no child is left behind with respect to protection against sale and sexual exploitation. Examples of good practices are kindly requested to be as concrete as possible and preferably include a description of practical outcomes or results.**

Child hearing room

Description

Child hearing room was develop within the project **"AUDIS: for better hearing minors in Romania"** whose pilot phase was conducted from April 2012 to December 2014, aiming to improve existing practices in Romania regarding cases of minors and, in particular, hearing of the minors involved in legal proceedings.

The project was coordinated by the Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations for Child (FONPC) and implemented under an inter-institutional cooperation protocol between French Embassy in Romania, the Association "Voix de l'Enfant" from France, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs - General Inspectorate of Romanian Police and the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons -, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly - National

Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption and the General Departments of Social Assistance and Child Protection (GDSACP) from Cluj and Dolj county. Through AUDIS project implementation, there were established three hearing rooms in Cluj-Napoca and Craiova within GDASCP and in Bucharest within the prosecution office from Bucharest Court.

In order to achieve the hearing/ interview/ evaluation of children victims or authors of offenses under the best conditions, it was arranged a special room for interviewing minors, equipped with:

- audio-video recording equipment;
- one-way mirror between the room for the child and interviewer, on one hand, and on the other hand the room for the rest of the multidisciplinary team;
- friendly facilities for children (including anatomical dolls;
- comfortable furniture, adequate for children and in warm colors.

Child hearing room implements the following principles and work standards:

- a) reduce the hearing's negative impact on children by avoiding re-victimization and excluding as many stressors as possible<
- b) interviewing the minor should and can be done one time by a specialist trained in interview techniques (usually the psychologist; child hearing in Romania is mandatory in the presence of the psychologist);
- c) intervention of a multidisciplinary team, networking and in institutional partnership with the family;
- d) audio-video recording of the testimony of a child victim or juvenile in conflict with the law, used and admitted as evidence by the court, consequently reducing the number of hearings;
- e) use of rules of confidentiality and professional ethics.

What makes it a good practice

Child hearing room established by AUDIS project has been used to develop further identical rooms, by replication, within prosecution office in other three cities and for a project conducted by General Inspectorate of Romanian Police that will establish such rooms in every County Police Inspectorate (41) in 2022.

