



Reaching Out

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Activity Report

As you know ROR is part of FONSS federation which is a cluster of 25 non-Governmental organizations with social services in all areas (elderly, disabilities, trafficking, education, etc). Because of EU pressure, 2 years ago Romania had to allow civil society to participate in legislative decision making. Therefore 3 organizations from FONSS are part of CES (the council that approves or opposes new legislation).

Last year was a very busy year in this field as the government tried to pass lots of legislative measures favouring the traffickers. Because of our point of view presented in CES by our partners we managed to block 3 dangerous pieces of legislation:

1. National anti-trafficking strategy, which was very general with no clear objectives, clear responsibilities for certain institutions involved and on the other side dangerous responsibilities assumed by one agency.
2. National strategy for child protection, the same generalities, no institutions responsible for certain actions, no measures for preventing abuse and neglect, no measures to support vulnerable communities.
3. So called legislation for “protecting children from sexual abuse” whereby the age of consent proposed was 14 years old. Meaning that a girl aged 14 if consented is not classified as rape. To better understand this dangerous proposal, you have to know that in the Romanian legislation there is no definition for paedophilia, no punishment for paedophiles, no definition for sexual predators, just a short mention of sex with minors as a generality with no clear age or punishment according to the age that the child was abused. For the first 2 proposals Reaching Out worked together with CADO in order to formulate the reasons why this legislation should be blocked. They were accepted by CES and the legislation didn't pass. For the third piece of legislation regarding the age of consent the objections formulated by Reaching Out alone stood and the legislation didn't pass.

In addition, we participated in multiple working groups in the parliament to make sure that the victims voice was heard. Many times, its difficult to get our point of view across because the parliamentary that we are talking to don't know the reality in the field and many times they believe we exaggerate because they are not in touch with the reality in the field.

Not the last we mentioned the standards for trafficking minors. The government had the responsibility of producing the standards in 2004. The lack of standards means that one cannot license a social service without the minimum requirements approved by the government. In 2020 ROR initiated the discussions with the ministry of labour, wrote the hard core of the standards based on the experience with the victims and after many negotiations, meetings, mobilization of



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other NGO's, in 2021 the government approved the standards for assisting victims of trafficking-minors. As a result, beginning with 2021 any organization willing to assist victims of trafficking minors can be registered and licensed by the government with clear rules as it should.

In the year of 2021 ROR assisted a number of 16 victims.

D.M.D, 15 yo; N.A.I 15 yo; S.M. 16 yo; V.D.A 13 yo; S.I. 14 yo; C.A. 16 yo; S.A. 16 yo; C.C. 14 yo ; C.A.L. 17 yo; B.A.C. 18 yo; P.S. 15 yo; D.A. 18 yo; C.F. 17 yo; M.A.M. 17 yo; A.R. 14 yo; S.L.M. 20 yo.

All our beneficiaries were enrolled in full time school and received tutoring. Last year we were contacted by an organization with activity in education and together we succeeded in forming a group of teachers from all around Romania willing to volunteer in tutoring our beneficiaries online. In this way we cover the most important subjects in school, Romanian, mathematics, chemistry, physics, personal development, English, etc. In this way on top of regular school hours all throughout the week the girls receive tutoring for free.

All our beneficiaries are enrolled with the family doctor. Apart of the common cold two girls received ophthalmologic prescriptions. 6 girls are registered with the psychiatrist receiving treatment, 3 presented gynaecological issues and received treatment. All of them required dental work but because of the pandemic we were unable to offer these treatments. It seems that this year the dental cabinet will be open. On top of that the usual outbreak of lice that we managed to catch in time and resolve. S.L.M. 20 yo is a former beneficiary who interrupted her psychiatric treatment last year and was in need of assistance she was with us for only 1 month, enough to check her into the hospital and update her treatment. She specifically required assistance by Reaching Out because she didn't trust anyone else.

Last year we finalized 3 court cases 1 in Alba Iulia, 1 in Teleorman, and 1 in Bucharest. Where traffickers received sentences between 3 1/5 years and 4 years out of which one was appealed by the traffickers and it was closed at the end of the year with the same sentence. At present 1 pending case which is in Bucharest. Following the risk assessment this case places the shelter at high risk. Because the trafficker is arrested but his family is not yet. They are making threats and they are looking for the victim.

General activities in the shelter. Apart from occasional trips to the church (because of the pandemic) we had a group of Christians coming from Bucharest every Saturday for the last 3 months of the year to teach Alpha course to the girls. Useful and fun even for the social workers. Most of the time during this summer the girls spent time outdoor in our backyard playing games with various volunteers that wanted to spend time with them. In the second half of this year we started using the essential lavender oil produced at the farm for various items that will be sold E-commerce platform. This page on the platform will be created by a special IT company, they found us on the internet and decided to volunteer for our organisation, creating a professional page which will be on the E-commerce platform. Together with the girls we already



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manufactured candles with essential oils, floral arrangements with lavender small, scented sacks with lavender, lavender water, and of course essential oil. In attachment you have pictures with some of these products. You will also receive the link for this page as soon as its ready. We also registered on BCR Bank's platform for donations called "bursa binelui". We are hoping to sustain part of our activities from here for the beginning. With the help of you and the IT company we intend to build a donor community.