

2017 - 2021

### MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

#### **MISSION**

We act for defending and promoting human rights through prevention, assistance, training, research and advocacy activities.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- We develop actions for defending human rights and offering assistance to persons needing support,
- Developing professional skills with attributions in promoting and defending human rights,

- Research on social phenomenon,
- Activities of lobby and advocacy in human rights,
- Developing interinstitutional collaborations for defending human rights,
- Consultancy for public and private institutions.

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#### **FOREWORD**

The period covered by this activity report was an extremely challenging one for Alternative Sociale Association, given that the issuance in 2017 of an illegal report by the Ministry of European Funds significantly affected the association's activity for more than four years.

Even under these circumstances, during 2017-2021 we implemented successful projects with funding from the European Commission, provided expertise to UNICEF and ANPDCA for the evaluation of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020 (Juvenile Justice field) and for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child 2022-2027 (areas of "Child-Friendly Justice" and "Violence against Children"), we became full members of the COPE Network (2020) and associated with the EU Centre for Victims of Terrorism (2021), and the Ministry of Labour and Family awarded the association the Diploma of Good Practices in Social Services in Romania. We managed to contribute to the development of a concern for the professional and personal future

for over 1000 young people from pre-university technical education with whom we carried out career guidance activities, we trained over 100 specialists on topics related to gender violence in the context of migration to facilitate victims' access to protection and assistance, we piloted effective practices at European level for the recognition of professional competences, together with the National College of Social Workers we organized Social Work Days in lasi and many others.

However, the end of 2021 brought us the most important news: the High Court of Cassation and Justice annulled the illegal minutes of the Ministry of European Funds. We are starting a road at the end of which Alternative Sociale will resume its place as a landmark organization in Romania and at international level.

Cătălin LUCA

Alexandru GULEI

**AAS President** 

AAS Executiv Director

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## ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE PERSONS

## Developing independent life skills

257 children

257 children separated or in risk of separation benefited from activities for developing independent life skills. Teenagers participated in vocational orientation activities in schools that were focused on the importance of building up a plan for personal development, setting concrete objectives and knowing the resources needed for reaching the proposed objectives.





## Psychosocial assistance services

100 children

100 children from vulnerable groups (remigrant children, children with children, children with imprisoned parents, children with deceased parents, children with parents left for working abroad) benefited from psychosocial assistance and child protection services. Also, through the online campaign 'Are you leaving to another country? Social worker helps you' we implemented actions for preventing and combatting the negative effects of labor migration amongst home alone or remigrant children and family members.

## ACTIVITIES WITH AND FOR TEENAGERS

Between 2017-2021 Alternative Sociale Association continued to implement projects and activities with and for teenagers. The following results were obtained:

## 1000 students

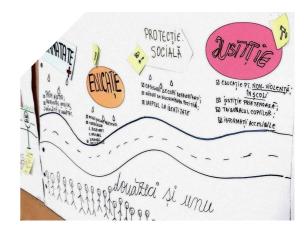
from Miroslava Agricultural Technological High School and Technological College 'Ioan C. Ștefănescu' benefited from career guidance activities.



## 12 adolescents

participated in consultations related to Child-friendly justice and Violence against children measures included in the National Child Protection Strategy 2021-2027.





## TRAINING SPECIALISTS

## Anger management

"Anger is just an emotion. Express it in a healthy way!"

In the process of training the personnel of residential centers for working with children that present (pre)delinquent behaviors and developing anger management and prosocial behaviors. The following results were achieved:

- 1 program for anger management "Anger is just an emotion. Express it in a healthy way!";
- **180** copies of the program were distributed to the specialists working in residential centers of the General Department of Social Care and Child Protection in Iasi;
- **165** educators, social workers and psychologists working in residential centers of the General Department of Social Care and Child Protection in Iasi were trained in implementing the program with children from placement centers.







## Career Counselling and Orientation

Project 'School for life' facilitated the training of teachers from Agricultural Technological 'Mihail Kogălniceanu' in organizing career counseling activities with children.

- **27 teachers** received relevant materials created by Alternative Sociale, for career counseling and vocational orientation activities:
- **1 online workshop** with the participation of head teachers from 9th and 10th grades, where Alternative Sociale presented the conclusions of a study on the impact of vocational orientation and career counselling activities amongst students.

Activities were carried out with the involvement of 857 teachers, 33.000 students and 18.000 parents in ACTIV project, implemented by Alternative Sociale in the Moldova region of the country, highlighting the points of view of the three mentioned categories.



# TRAINING SPECIALISTS

Within the Open CCCP project, Alternative Sociale organized a series of activities for solving the problems of vulnerable groups and community development, based on concepts such as: learning from context, valuing open educational resources and practices. The project proposed making resources accessible for specialists, increasing the employment rate of professionals that are looking for a job.



## Open Educational Practices for Common Community and Cultural Projects (OPEN CCCP)

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83 specialists

participated in the conference organized with the support of CNASR lasi

**5** educational practices

5 open training educational practices were developed

**50** professionals

were trained on quality standards, aligned with the EU transparency instruments.



# TRAINING SPECIALISTS

## Migration and gender-based violence

Alternative Sociale organized trainings and workshops for professionals working with children and families affected by migration, but also with specialists that work with persons that became or are in risk of becoming victims of violence:



participated in a workshop for developing a list of intervention priorities for assisting children and families affected by gender-based violence in the context of migration





75 specialists from Iași, Galați and Suceava counties that get in contact with migrant persons were trained for preventing gender-based violence, identifying victims and

offering specialized assistance, taking in consideration the gender and cultural specific background and improving the referral mechanisms. Also, an `EU chart for consolidating the protection of women and girls in reception centers for asylum seekers against gender-based violence` was promoted, being created as a result of common learning and exchanging best practices amongst relevant public and private institutions and organizations from France, Italy, Great Britain, Romania and Sweden.



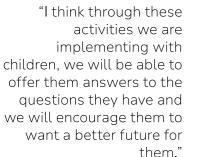
### FEEDBACK FROM SPECIALISTS AND TEENAGERS





"I felt very good at the course, I felt that I enriched myself by the fact that I can apply what I learned and I will gladly participate in the next training courses in the future!"

Daniel, social worker



Anca, AAS volunteer



"The course gave me the opportunity to meet people, specialists from other fields of activity; I learned techniques for working with children and adolescents from a different perspective."

Tamia, psychologist

"I consider that we are teenagers with a great will to be involved. We will give it all in such a way that we can make at least a small change in children's vision regarding their present and their future."

Raluca, AAS volunteer



I get along better with my friends and I communicate more since participating in the activities organized by Alternative Sociale's volunteers...

are the words of a student, beneficiary within the project 'Together for children'.



**INFORMING CAMPAIGNS** 

#### "Are you leaving to another country? Social worker helps you"

Campaign dedicated to preventing and combatting the negative effects of labor migration on children left home alone or remigrant and their families. Dring this campaign Alternative Sociale and Betania Association in Bacau offered parents advices and information related to:

- the importance of keeping the bond between the child and the parent;
- the necessity of a constant preoccupation of fulfilling the roles of a parent, even from distance;
- the importance of consulting the children when taking important decisions and preparing them for the upcoming changes.

Weekly, Alternative Sociale's specialists offered information and counseling related to obtaining children allowance according to European legislation, with an occurrence of 5-7 telephone requests each week.







#### Promoting access to justice and assistance for migrant victims of Gender-based violence

The campaign included two target groups: employers and potential victims. They were made aware on the impact of gender-based violence, specific of this violence in the context of migration, importance of promoting human rights and modalities through which migrant employees can request protection and assistance in Romania and the EU. Face to face workshops were organized and informative materials were distributed with the help of partner NGOs.

DISSEMINATION OF EXPERTIZE WITHIN CONFERENCES

- Organizing with CNASR Iași of the conference "Valuing local resources for promoting social inclusion and marginalized groups" (within project Open CCCP), with the participation of 83 social workers from Moldova region of Romania (2021);
- Organizing conference for closing the project "Children in residential centers> from risk to social opportunities" (2017);
- Participating in the organization of the international conference Open CCCP in Barcelona (2021);
- Participating in the organization of the international conference within SWIM project "EU Round Table. A dialogue on the prevention and protection of migrant women and girls from gender-based violence". Brusseles (2019):
- Participating in conference "Social work within a penitentiary, first edition, 2019" (2019);
- Participating in summer schools organized annually by CNASR;
- Participating in the conference organized by ULIM;
- Participating in the conference "Rights and Protection of Children Left Behind by Parents Migrating For Work" organized by ChildPact with the support of Central European Initiative Fund and Oak Foundation (2019);
- Participation ion conference "Together Against Human Trafficking" organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation.







## **ELABORATING STUDIES AND INFORMATIVE MATERIALS**

- SWIM training program for specialists on GBV -Translation into Romanian language, as well as testing IT (2019)
- EU Charter for strengthening the protection of women and girls in reception centers for asylum seekers from gender-based violence (2020)



- Report Prevention of gender-based violence. identification of victims of violence and protection of migrants in reception centres for asylum seekers and refugees. The role of institutions in Romania (2021)
- Brochure for migrant victims of violence - Romania (2020)
- Report on the impact of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020 for UNICEF and the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions - component on justice for children (2020)
- Contributing to the development of the National Strategy for the



- Anger management for (pre)adolescents. Psychoeducational group program (2017)
- Comprehensive Model for Open Educational Practice (2019)
- Open Curriculum for Open Educational Practice (2020)
- Local Labs Compendium (2021) (2021)



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### **VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES**

Alternative Sociale involved in its activities 21 volunteers, students of several faculties with socio-human profile of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi.

were trained and implemented support activities to prevent problems of: social, school and cultural adaptation. volunteers behavior and labeling and activities for facilitating the reintegration of children separated or at risk of separation from their parents, in two youth centers operating in the Secondary Schools "Ion Simionescu" lasi and "Alecu



of the Alternative Sociale Association accompanied social workers in their volunteers specific activities, to implement information campaigns and supported project management activities.

Russo" lasi



Participation in the NGO Fest 2017 event, the team of volunteers contributed to promoting the activity of the NGO sector within NGO Fest 2017 where they also organized outdoor activities for children and adults

- Alternative Sociale annually promoted volunteering in events organized by UAIC lasi.

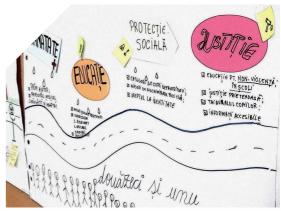
### **VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES BY ALTERNATIVE SOCIALE'S SPECIALISTS**

- Alternative Sociale's specialists supported the People's Advocate Institution to carry out the Field on prevention of torture in places of detention, to strengthen the protection of patients against torture and inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment and to exercise fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination:
- Annually, Alternative Sociale's specialists carried out, as volunteers, a program of career guidance and counseling activities with ninth grade students from "loan C. Stefănescu" College.









**PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS** 



**EuroED** – partnership within INCREA project

Asociația Betania, DGASPC Iași și Vaslui - Project SWIM

City Mine(d) London, Bond of Union in Palermo, Tesserae in Berlin - Project OPEN CCCP

Miroslava Highschool - Project "School for life"

FONSS - organizing a free course for members

Colegiul Ioan C. Stefănescu - Project "School for active and responsible young people - STAR"







#### COLLABORATIONS

#### ULIM

**Diaconia Social Mission** 

#### ChildPact

**lasi County School Inspectorate** - "School for authentic values" - Social inclusion and human rights: competition at the start.

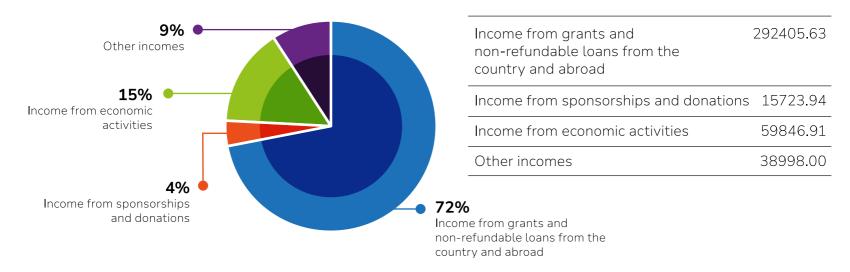
**CCD** - Workshop "Building resilience of people negatively affected by migration for work - remigrant children and human trafficking"





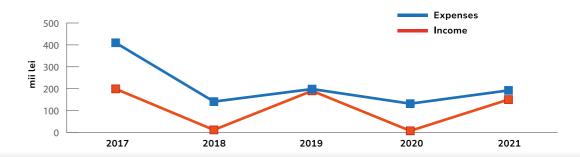
### **FINANCIAL**

#### FINANCING SOURCES 2017 - 2021



#### THE EVOLUTION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2017-2021

	INCOME	<b>EXPENSES</b>
2017	409.525	196.806
2018	140.64	11.157
2019	198.026	189.787
2020	131.205	6.922
2021	191.817	149.857



### **IMPORTANT EVENTS**

During 2017-2021, Alternative Sociale ticked off several important achievements that contributed to the evolution and development both at society and association level. In 2017. the Alternative Sociale marked 20 years of activity. years in which it acted on behalf of human rights, defending and promoting them through prevention, assistance, training, research and advocacy activities.







These were years we are proud of, because we managed to work for the good of society, which was observed not only locally but also internationally, as a result of which Alternative Sociale became a member of the "EU Center for the Victims of Terrorism" and a full member of the "Children of Prisoners Europe".

Alternative Sociale, led by its team, has gone through many beautiful moments, and most importantly it has become living proof that justice triumphs, as proof being the final gain, in December 2020, of the lawsuit against the Ministry of European Funds regarding the restitution of funding for the project "The Social Economy Model in Romania".



