

MANAGERIAL CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE FACE OF THE GROWING ABUSED CHILDREN PHENOMENON IN ROMANIA

<u>Organisation(s):</u>	Bucharest's 6th District City Council - General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection	
<u>Country:</u>	Romania	
<u>Contact:</u>	policy@esn-eu.org	
<u>Theme:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ageing & Care <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum & Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Young People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support for children & families <input type="checkbox"/> Community Care <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Production <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> Digitalisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Care & Support <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour Market Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Social Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce and Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum Income <input type="checkbox"/> EU Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services Resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
<u>Principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights:</u> <i>Check the 20 principles here.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Education, training, life-long learning <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Gender equality <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Equal opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Active support to employment <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Secure and adaptable employment <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fair Wages <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Transparent Employment conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Social dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Work-life balance <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Healthy, safe work environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. Childcare and child support <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Social protection <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Unemployment benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Minimum income <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Old age income and pensions <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Health care <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Long-term care <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Housing and assistance to homeless <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Access to essential services
<u>Current status of the practice:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Concept and Design Phase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Execution & Monitoring Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Up and Transformation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	

<p><u>Context/ Social issues addressed</u> <i>Please explain the problem you are attempting to solve</i></p>	<p>A significant number of child abuse cases go unreported by those who are close to the child, or by institutions that are responsible for ensuring the child's safety, such as the extended family, school, or family doctor. Moreover, many reported cases have been mishandled due to inadequate coordination between the judicial and social assistance systems. As a result, the child is often subjected to repeated traumatization throughout the legal process.</p> <p>The following statistical data from the Save the Children Organization clearly depict the current situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% (at least) of the initially notified cases are evaluated as invalid by the police and social workers (gatekeepers of the system) and end with the non-initiation of criminal prosecution (NUP); • 25% (at least) of the reported cases enter criminal prosecution and end with the classification of the criminal prosecution file due to the lack of sufficient evidence; • 5% of the cases go to court and end with the acquittal of the accused person; • 12% of the cases are completed with the recognition of the act by the accused and his conviction; • 8% It ends with the conviction of the aggressor who did not know his deed.
<p><u>Objectives:</u> <i>Please provide a maximum of three objectives in bullet points.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving the identification of the child's abuse case 2. Improving the reporting of the child abuse case 3. Improving intervention in the case of abused children (especially in the case of sexual abuse)
<p><u>Activities:</u> <i>Please summarise the activities put in place to achieve the objectives (maximum 200 words).</i></p>	<p>Various initiatives/activities have been taking place in order to address the issue of child abuse.</p> <p>One such activity involves community information campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the problem of child abuse. An information campaign has been carried out in 54 schools, kindergartens, and high schools, as well as in 10 health units where family doctors practice. To facilitate the reporting of cases of children with difficulty, a unique number, 119, has been put into operation at the national level. Anyone can use this number to report cases of child abuse.</p> <p>To further streamline the process, collaborative procedures have been established between social assistance services, the police, and the prosecutor's office. This allows for a more coordinated and efficient response to cases of child abuse. Lastly, a significant managerial challenge has been tackled with the establishment of the</p>

	first Barnahus Center in Romania in partnership with the Save the Children organization.
<u>Evaluation of practice:</u> <i>Please explain how you evaluate the practice, and what the results were/are so far</i>	No evaluation has yet taken place.
<u>Links to supporting documents:</u> <i>e.g. website or report of the practice</i>	
<u>Comments and Tips</u>	<p>During times of crisis, whether social, political, or economic, the human resource becomes the most crucial element. In such situations, the minimum psychological training of police officers and social workers who respond to referrals is of utmost importance.</p> <p>It is essential to recognize the value of the expertise that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can bring to the table in creating new services to support those in need.</p> <p>To improve the effectiveness of interventions, it is necessary to establish an inter-institutional mechanism that clearly defines the role of each actor involved. This mechanism should integrate social assistance and the support provided to both the family and child.</p>