

Romanian Youth Policies



Research and Evaluation Report of Romanian Youth Policies - 2005

Coordinated by Marian Rujoiu

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Romanian Youth Policies Associations, 2005

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YOUTH POLICIES IN ROMANIA

1. On the Notion of Youth Policy
2. Who Are and What do Young People Represent
3. The Degree of Risk and Consequences
4. Romania and Youth Issues
5. Three Major Problems of Romanian Youth
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1. On the notion of youth policy

In the making of any national policy it is essential to make sure that it applies to that country. Furthermore, for each particular segment, in order to prove its efficiency, any policy has to address a defined target.

A benchmark definition of what national youth policy represents, would be the ensuing¹:

- A virtual demonstration that the youth is a priority;
- A blazon for youth development;
- A comprehensive declaration;
- A conceptual declaration;
- A framework for the political action;
- A diagram of the statute, rights, responsibilities and of the role that youth plays.

In order to be viable, a youth policy has to address youth as a distinct category. It is necessary to build a youth policy because on the one hand young people represent a particular group with its particular needs, aspirations and specific problems and on the other hand, -although this is a phrase that has lost its meaning due to long term abusive use in inadequate contexts- simply because youth represent a nation's future. Twenty years from now, the present youth shall be building a youth policy for their children.

2. Who are and what do young people represent

It is a fact that for each generation there is a specific way of thinking, and that every generation considers itself to be the bearer of genuine values. There have often been complaints from the elder regarding the young who “have the wrong ideas” or “are not on the right path” or there are sayings like “the youth nowadays...”. And the present youth is likely to say the same in the future.

Yet, aside from these clichés, these gaps between generations, the young people are and will be an important segment of the population, both numerical and as a category that has aspirations, values and problems of their specific age. This is the part where the state should get involved in developing that policy that concomitantly allows and supports the harmonious development of the young, so that they can reach maturity as a healthy and socially integrated person.

We must take into account that after December 1989, our country has been in continuous transition and that the social class that was affected most by these changes is youth.

In ‘The Youth Policies Formulation Manual’, as in other works, one can find descriptions of the special and paradoxical situation in which young people are. On one hand they are born in an existing system, and on the other hand they try to change it. Young people make a real effort to adapt, as they have to accept certain values, a residence, a social context, a teacher, a certain school, etc. The innovating urge of young people pushes them towards change and quite often towards the denial of values.

I consider that this paradox, this double posture of the young people in the present context of transition, makes their situation even more difficult for a simple reason: biologically speaking it is difficult enough to adapt to an environment, but when the environment is in perpetual change we deal with a greater problem – adapting to something that changes. All in all, the situation of the youth is characterized by a paradox, in which there is another fluctuant variable, namely the transition period in Romania. This is the reason why social integration is difficult for young people in this context. They try to accept an environment or certain values, and when they have finally managed to accept them, new values, social and economic contexts emerge generated by the transition.

In the same time, society cannot afford to absolutely suppress the potential of youth, this desire to change, to innovate. It would be a waste for any society to stop these tendencies of youth, it would mean standing in the way of creativity, of the technological process and social dynamics determined by the behavior of the youth. “The social-demographic group with the highest potential

of activity reveals its abilities outside the sphere of work, culture or politics expressing itself mostly by an immoral behavior.”ⁱⁱ

In the same time, from the psychological point of view, young people, especially between the age of 14 and 18, are not recognized as adult men and women, but they are expected to act that way. The difference between duty and responsibility is thus made clear, meaning that young people do not have a special duty but they are required to take responsibility for their actions.

Seemingly, we are dealing with a situation where it will be impossible for the young people adapt. Seemingly because this is where a coherent youth policy should intervene, acting on all levels directly or indirectly related to youth. This is the most important problem, that there is no coherent youth policy, that young people are often regarded by politicians as a number on a chart or as potential voters, not as human entities characterized by specific needs and unique aspirations. This perpetuated the state of facts in which young people were only important at discursive level or for certain programs, most of which induced no significant change in their lives.

High-level official documents, declarations that acknowledge the importance of youth, demonstrate that young people are a national, European and international priority.

Although youth is a vulnerable category within the social structure, they are seen as the hope of a state. They represent large sources of human resources and are very important factors inⁱⁱⁱ :

- social dynamics
- economical growth
- technological process

As a very important social segment, it is necessary to develop a policy that would ensure the successful accomplishment of their transition from adolescence to the independence and responsibility of adulthood.

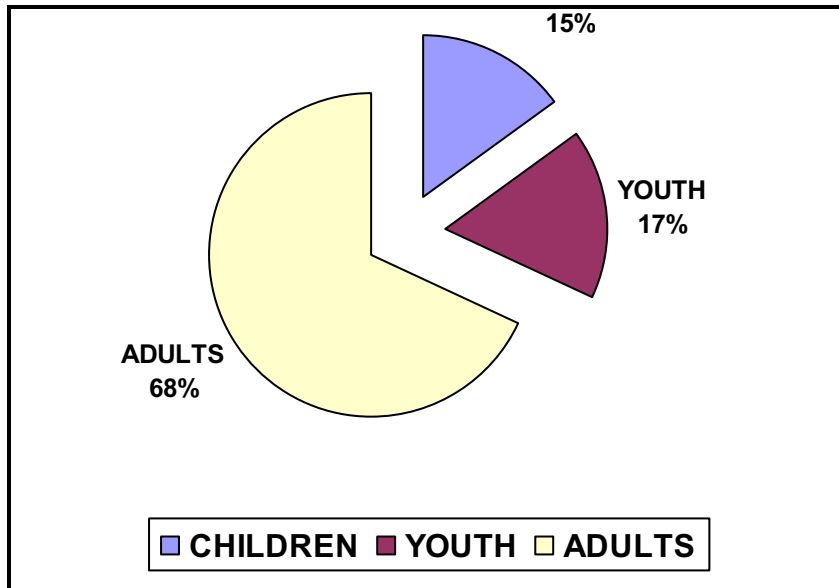
“First of all, youth is a special category, and this imposed the making of a separate administrative structure within the government, dedicated to people of this age. We do not have a ministry of the elderly, of the children or of the adults, but the youth has special needs (actually all categories have, but youth in particular) – education problems, professional qualification problems, employment problems, residence problems and leisure related problems.

The ministry in the field should theoretically coordinate all of the social policies regarding youth. But this is where it overlaps with other ministries -with the ministry of education, the ministry of labor, the ministry of health- but it is the Ministry of Youth that should normally assure the interface. Romania has both strengths and weaknesses, compared with other European countries, where

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social youth policies have been implemented earlier and with greater accuracy. We are still using some policies that try to solve all kind of crucial social problems with modest financial resources^{iv}.”

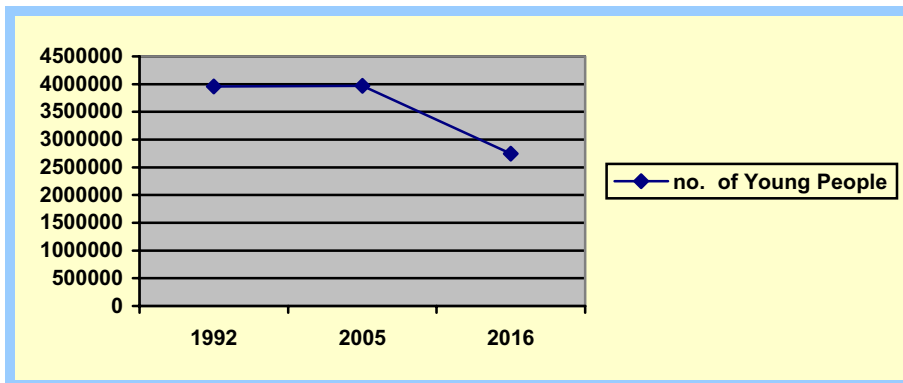
Young people (15 to 24 years of age), statistically represent 17% of the entire population of Romania^v :



Therefore we can see that youth and children represent more than one third of the entire population. At this time the youth represents about 3.350.000 people. By origin, approximately 57% are from the urban environment and 43% from the rural environment. At a global level the percentage represented by this age group is 18%^{vi}.

A very important factor that youth policies in Romania must consider is the proportion of the total population that youth will represent in the future. Using the present numerical size of the 4-13 years of age generation (which corresponds by number of years to the 15-24 generation), the ensuing was estimated:

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This means that by the year 2016, the number of young people aged 15 to 24 will decrease by 30%, from approximately 3 900 000 to around 2 700 000 to be more precise. If we consider the rate of mortality, the percentage grows insignificantly, less than 1%.

3. The degree of risk and consequences

In the work “*Cartea Federației Engleze pentru Tineret*^{vii}” it is stressed that the youth represent the social group with the highest risk factor both socially and economically. Social problems are created by demographical and social changes. In the youth related field, the main changes are^{viii} :

- transition periods
- increased participation of women in activities outside the family (ex: prolongation of the educational period)
- increasing number of premarital sexual experiences
- birth-control,
- increase in premarital cohabitation
- increase in social and parental tolerance towards the premarital behavior of youth.
- decrease of the nuptial rate
- globalization
- destruction of the myth of marriage
- late family-building
- difficulty in finding a job
- the diminish or total disappearance of the part that parents and family play in the marriage of the young people
- birth rate affected by the fall of the nuptial rate
- the increased importance of emotional relationships between partners
- the relative leveling of the statute of men and of women.

The above changes trigger consequences that sometimes have negative effects on youth:

- feelings of feebleness relating to their condition
- the decreasing quality of young people's life
- losing confidence in existing decision-making systems
- the lack of valuable standards as reference points^{ix}

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- a degree of detachment from traditional public participation form
- young people declare that they do not always find their preoccupations reflected in public policies
 - some of the young people take refuge in indifference and individualism
 - others are sometimes tempted to perform in excessive ways because the lack of resources hinders the achievements of aspirations
 - lack of correct and equidistant information regarding the decisions or phenomena directly or indirectly concerning them^x
 - lack of prospect of young people from the rural environment^{xi}
 - most of them desire to influence policies but cannot find the adequate means

A youth policy should not limit to paper or speech, it should consider these changes and even anticipate them on one hand, and on the other it should take measures to prevent the negative consequences endangering the youth.

The main 15 levels of action from the World Programme of Action for Youth^{xii} are:

- education
- employment
- famine and poverty
- health
- environment
- drug abuse
- juvenile delinquency
- leisure activities
- gender problems
- the efficient involvement of youth in social life and decision making
- globalization
- information technology and communication
- HIV/AIDS
- youth and conflict prevention
- relations between generations

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All of these fields shall be evaluated and examined in order to conclude on the Romanian youth policies.

I believe that the scheme above is to be appreciated, because from the very beginning, it regards young people under all aspects related to them, not just education and free time as it is often mistakenly considered in the Romanian case. Only by making a policy that acts on these levels can we achieve efficiency. A youth policy cannot be made up and implemented by a single institution, but must be developed by an institution responsible for the youth, an institution that provides incentives to all those departments, agencies, institutions or ministries dealing with youth.

4. Romania and youth issues

It is worth noticing that lately there are more and more discussions about the “European youth” who will be the future citizens of Europe. They learn about the European Union, take part in foreign exchange, and are the future beneficiaries of the free market.

Beyond this enthusiasm, -generally shared by young people with the undeniable support of state authorities who fuel this type of feelings- it would be wrong to believe that these “benefits” shall solve the social problems that young people face. Quite on the contrary, it is reasonable to assume the costs of the integration will be in significant part covered by the youth. It is obvious that in Romania, the ‘European future’ was emphasized in such a way that it created a pro-integration mentality, thus shadowing the real problems that the country faces. I wish to emphasize the fact that I am not intent upon making an argument against the integration, but only upon pointing out that government officials have their attention focused mainly in this direction. This does not mean that Romania’s problems shall be solved by the passage of time, but on the contrary, some of them will worsen unless a proper policy is instituted at the right time.

The mere concept of “youth policy” is rather new, seldom encountered in the discourse used by government officials or the public in general. When it shows up, it serves just as another term in an enumeration, as another justification of a project. There is no document, either official or unofficial, that refers to youth policies in a concrete manner. It is true that there are a few documents referring to Plans of Action for Youth (four editions), but they either consist of general facts or have not been followed by any specific measures affecting the youth.

Measures regarding the youth directly and indirectly have been taken during past years, but they were not a part of a coherent policy, and because of this, the information did not get to the beneficiaries or their numbers were rather reduced.

If we are to consider the recommendations from the “National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the Dawn of the 21st Century”, we can conclude that in Romania these recommendations were not respected. These recommendations, representing minimal imperatives for developing a youth policy, are the ensuing^{xiii}:

- it must be a policy of the state and not of the government;
- it must be developed as an integrated system made up of all the areas or departments that relate to the youth directly or indirectly;
- it must be the result of a consensus of all stakeholders, including consulting to the young people;

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- it must be developed as a long term policy and as not as a short-term policy;

More than that, in the development of any youth policy, a specific methodology must be used, integrating all these recommendations and explaining in detail how they are to be attained, something that does not happen in Romania.

5. Three major problems of the romanian youth

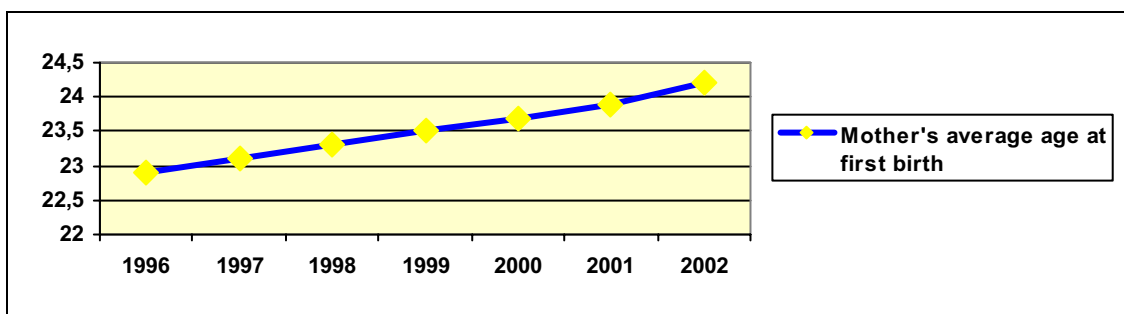
5. 1. Housing

Housing is a very important indicator of the standard of living. Due to migration of young people from the rural to the urban environment, the material resources needed to buy a house are diminished.^{xiv} This determines a decrease in birth rate and the postponement of marriage. As there are few high schools in the rural environment, the young people that attend one are forced to move out of their parents' home.

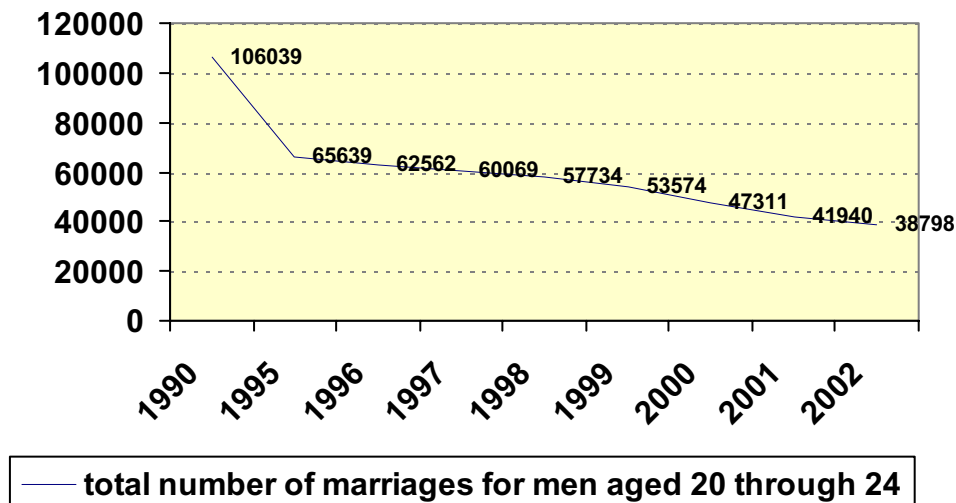
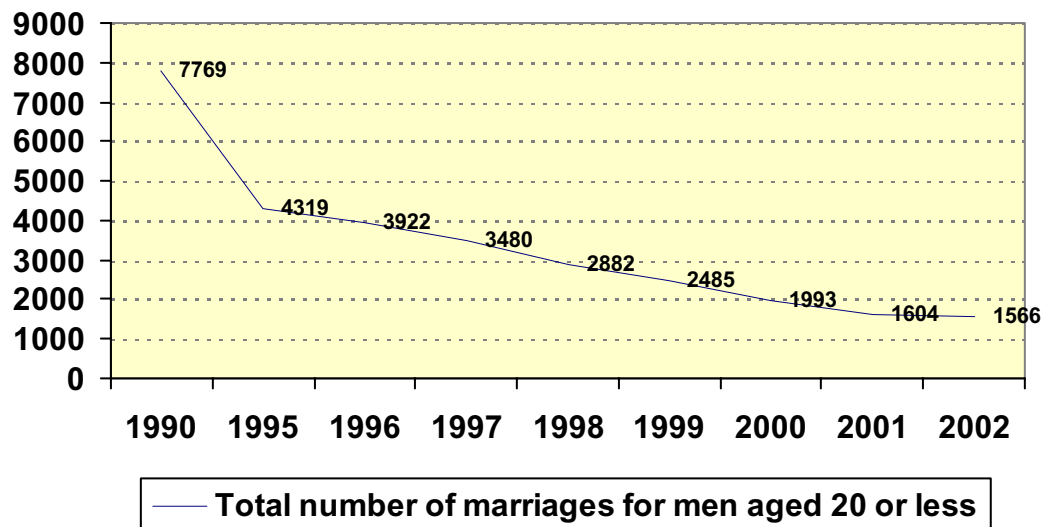
With respect to students, about 10% of them come from the rural environment^{xv} and 28 % of them are living in student dormitories^{xvi} which means that over 130 000 students are studying elsewhere than where they live. This migration of the population added to the will of young people not to return to the rural environment leads to one of the main problems that the young people are facing: the lack of housing.

This phenomenon is also seen in universities. Therefore young people coming from the rural environment will face the problem of acquiring a residence especially when they decide to start a family. It is true that in the future the stress of getting a house may not be so great because the next generations will be smaller in size, but this is not a solution because the tendency to migrate from the rural to the urban environment is in continuous rise.

Theoretically there is the possibility that they will turn to banking credits, even to the ones meant especially for youth, but gaining access to these credits and paying them back is difficult because in most of the cases low income does not allow it. This has had and will have a consequence on late marriages and birth of the first child. The average age, as can be seen in the chart below, changed from 22,9% in 1996 to 24,2% in 2002.



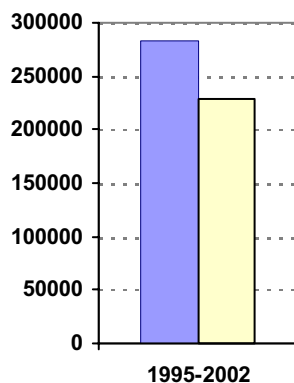
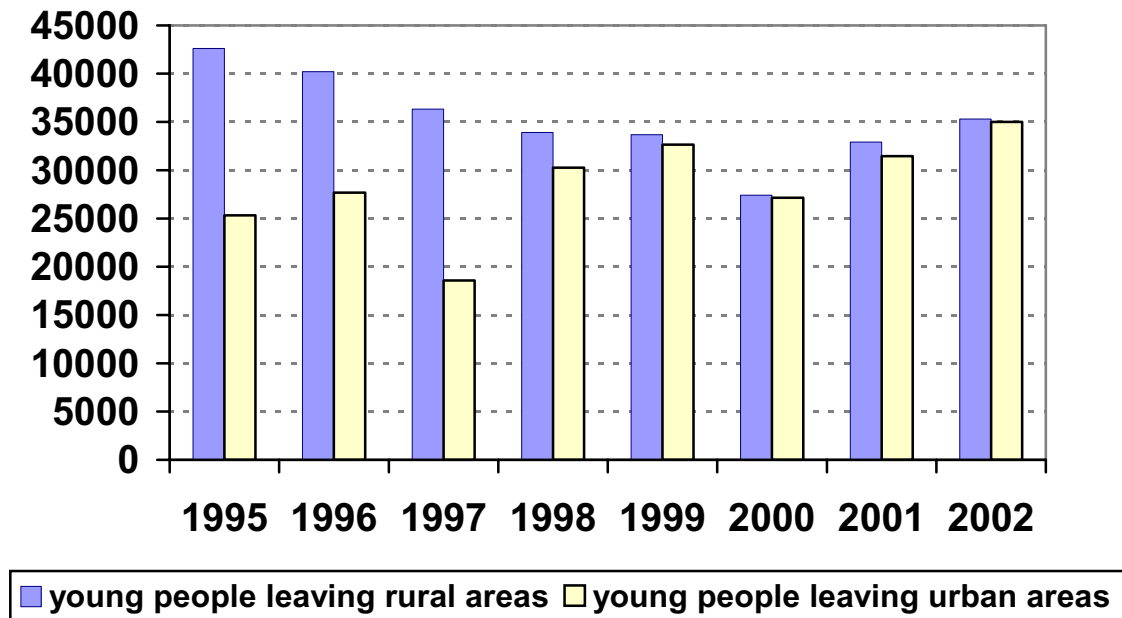
This is easy to explain by looking at the number of marriages of young people under 24 years. Referring to the age group of the husband between the years 1990 and 2002 there is a considerable downfall. Marriages for men under 20 years go down from 7769 in 1990 to 1566 in 2002 (a rate almost 5 times smaller). It is the same with young men aged 20 to 24: from 106039 marriages in 1990 to 38798 in 2002, almost 2 thirds of the initial number.



These phenomena shall lead to the aging of the population and a numerical decrease of the general population in the years to come.

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In this case we are dealing with a mentality problem because young people consider returning to the rural environment to be a failure.^{xvii} The migration during the past years stands as proof:



The charts show that the migration phenomenon is present on the age group of 15 to 24 years. One should notice the fluctuant nature of the migration both rural and urban. The migration from the rural environment shows a lack of uniformity meaning that it decreases from 1995 to 2000 and then rises again.

The total number of young people leaving the rural environment is 282343 and the ones from the urban environment is 20% smaller, 228097 to be precise.

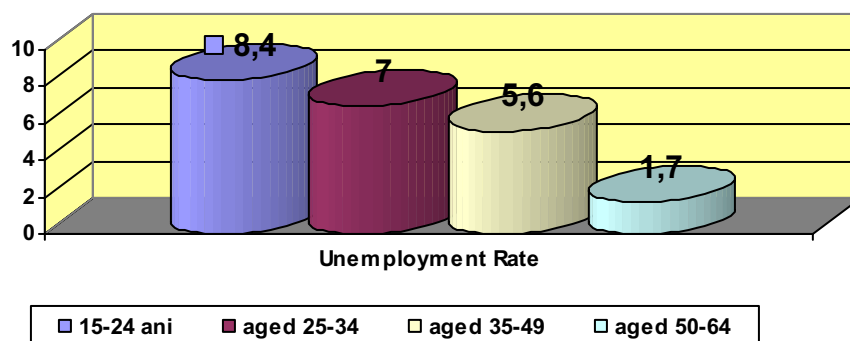
Out of these 510440 about 7%

We are dealing with the social factor on one hand (friends, certain perspectives, being used to one type of environment, access to the internet, etc.) and on the other hand with the lack of a well tuned system of stimulating young businessmen to start their business in the rural environment (the main activities they could have are agriculture, animal breeding and agro-tourism). Some

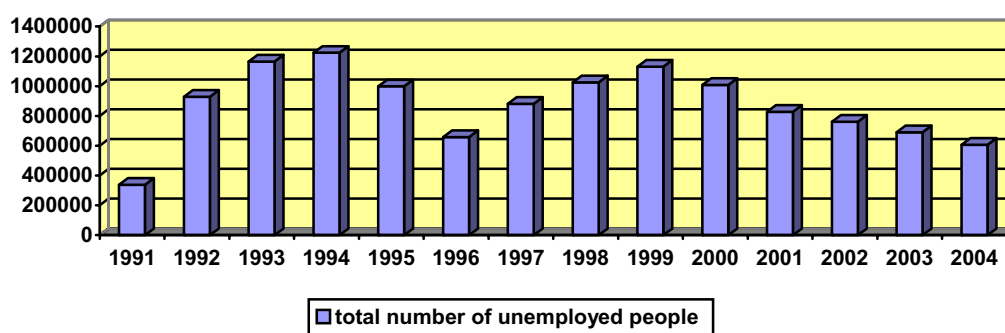
facilities are not attractive enough for youth, and others like the SAPARD funds that are hard to access.

5.2. Employment

The best way to refer to this is by the rate of unemployment for the age category at the end of the year 2002.



In the same time one can notice that the number of unemployed people has risen from 1991 to 2002 for the entire population.:

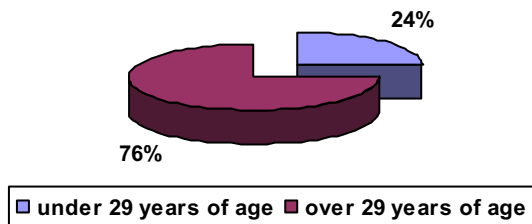


It is interesting to see that in the year 1995 unemployment got up to almost three times the rate it had in 1991 and then decreasing by one third to the

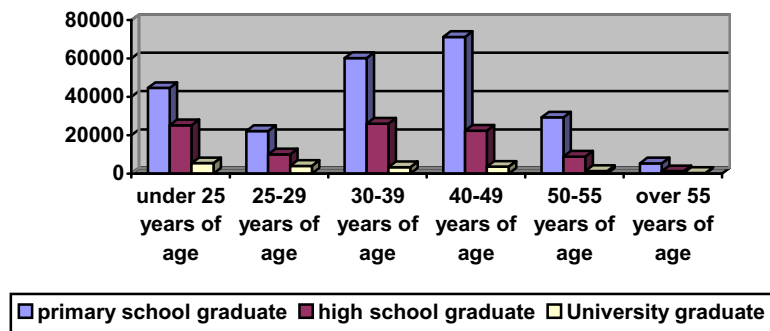
1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
337440	929019	1164705	1223925	998432	657564	881435	1025056	1130296	1007131	826932	760623	689531	607192

year 2002.

The unemployment rate for young people can be easily observed in the chart below:



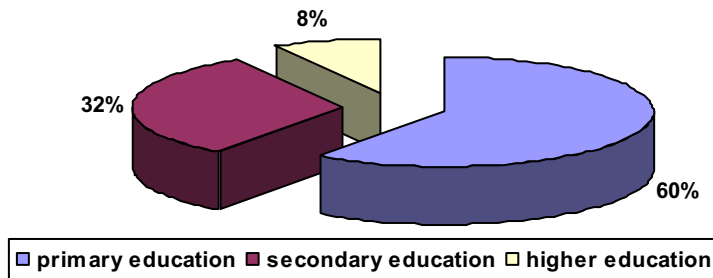
It is also visible that the unemployment rate is, at every age group, lower for people with higher education and higher for the ones with medium or basic education.



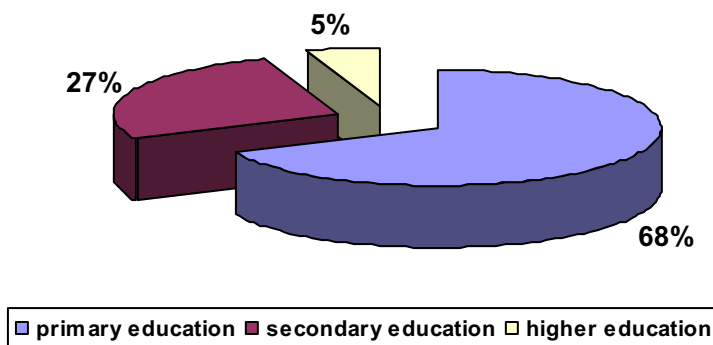
Similarly we see that according to the level of preparation, the distribution is favors the ones that are University graduates, meaning that there are less unemployed people with higher education.

The greatest problem is not the number of unemployed people, but on one hand the fact that basic education does not prepare young people for the labor market and on the other the curricular area does not entirely match the requirements of the labor market.

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The quota distribution of unemployed people in terms of education varies on all age categories. Thus it is obvious that people with a higher education level are less exposed to unemployment.

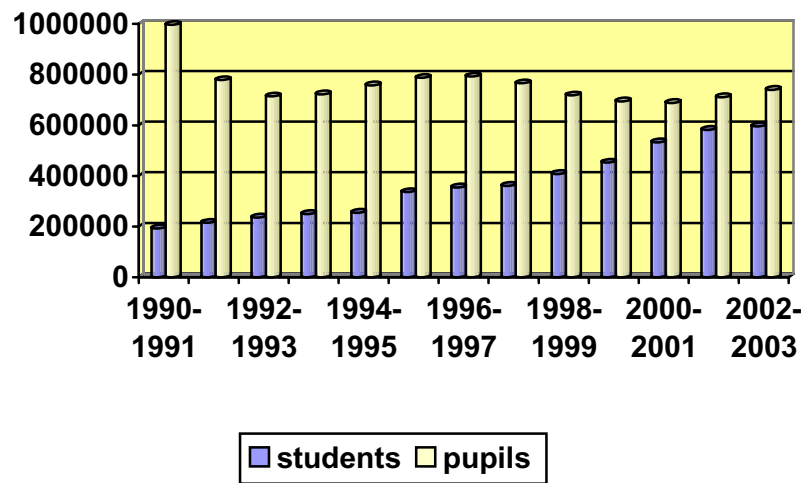


In this way, from an average 8%, the percentage of people with higher education that benefit from unemployment compensation, further decreases after the age of 30. It is true though that these numbers cannot be considered completely relevant because some variables intervene, such as the fact that the number of people who have recently graduated a higher form of education is much higher for the age category under 29 years than for the one of 29 or more.

Also, statistically speaking, out of the people aged under 29 years that benefit from unemployment compensation (11177), within 6 months about half of them are hired and after one year up to 65%. By the end of the second year almost 90% of them will have been hired.

5.3. Education

The statistical pupil-student evolution looks like this:



As it can be seen, the number of pupils has fallen slightly in the last years, whereas the number of students has risen from 192819 to 596297 in the same period of time, basically tripling the initial number.

Another important difference is determined by the number of high school students, primary school students and the number of primary school graduates deciding to attend high school. Approximately 30% of them do not choose to take the next step, to go to a high school. Beyond this we can say that a higher level of preparation gives more chances to the one that has it than to the one that lacks it. The representation below gives an explanation for this:

■ *“The theory of human capital” exposed in a remarkable way by Becker (1964): the income of a person increases substantially by his level of education..*

■ *a high educational capital assumes a higher value of the workforce due to increased productivity.*

■ *a higher level of training assumes a higher flexibility for adapting to the specific conditions of the labor market, helping to avoid the risk of unemployment*

■ *poverty can determine the degrading of the human capital stock standing in the way of maintenance expenses and its evolution*

■ *during the last few years the number of high specialization jobs has risen on all levels of education to the detriment of unskilled labor^{xviii}*

Certainly young people need all three types of education:^{xix}

- formal education (to gain knowledge – agent: the school)
- informal education (to gain abilities – agents: family , free time)

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- non formal education (to gain social values and aptitudes - agents: youth organizations, camps, conferences)

All of these three aspects should be considered as they hold an individual part, and a true education must consist of all three of them. We cannot talk about equal access to education because available resources, the income, does not allow young people to attend a high-school or an university, usually in the rural environment.

6. The advantages of having a national youth policy^{xx}

Below I shall state the advantages of a national youth policy, extracted from the Manual of Youth Policies Development (1999)

- ✓ it serves as a benchmark of society taking responsibility for youth
- ✓ it clarifies the needs of the youth and shows the way in which this group can take part in the decision-making process, even in the process of developing and implementing social youth policies
- ✓ grants an incentive for the co-interesting of all institutions connected to youth
- ✓ has a positive impact, motivating the youth to get involved
- ✓ creates beneficial cooperation both for the young generation and for the middle aged
- ✓ creates common goals for the youth with the government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, giving birth to a mechanism that would not be efficient without the cooperation of all the parts involved

7. Conclusion and results

It is necessary to accomplish a convergence between the personal needs of the youth and the general social needs, especially because most of the changes are the result of the social dynamics even characterized by irreversibility

A model of the young person “created” by a youth policy would have the following characteristics^{xxi}:

- should be independent, able to make decisions and control his social and his private life
- the ability to work with others and help them when needed
- should be responsible for his actions
- devotement to the group to which he belongs and respect for its values.

The Lisbon Declaration and a short comment regarding the situation in Romania

A short commentary on the youth policies in Romania based on The Lisbon Declaration regarding youth policies and the programs for the young, adopted at the International Conference of Youth Ministers, that took place in Lisbon in August 8-12 1998.^{xxii}

In terms of a national youth policy, the participants committed themselves to the following:

1. *Ensuring that the formulation, the application and fulfillment of the processes are awarded high level and corresponding political commitments, including the ensuring of adequate resources.*

[At this time, in Romania there are no political commitments regarding the implementation of a youth policy and the funds allocated are insufficient].

2. *To develop national youth policies and operational programs, at the right standards, in order to apply the International Program of Action for the Youth to*

the Year 2000 and Beyond, considering the national priorities, the realities and limitations that are born from socio-economic and cultural contexts.

[No official document in Romania mentions the International Program of Action for the Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, nor its provisions]

3. To establish the necessary policies and programs by the year 2000 in order to improve the standard of living for young people and to allow the efficient use of national youth policies, of an evolution within the areas, of the provisions, of inter-human understanding, in the program of action.

[The standard of living of youth is very low and the measures taken are not made public very well and most of them were not efficiently implemented.]

4. To analyze the situation and the needs of the youth, to integrate their self-evaluations of priorities, alongside the implication of the youth in a counseling process, in order to make sure that young people, both women and men, take active part in the development, application and evaluation of local and national policies, of programs and action plans.

[In the field of youth the authorities have only done two studies regarding their needs, but these are made as an opinion pole (the method used: random pick) so just a method that cannot establish with accuracy the needs of young people. With reference to the participation of young people in developing and implementing policies, I can conclude that these were only rarely done, and even then the initiative came from a student organization and on the background of a conflict]

5. The development of the self-making capacity by encouraging the official and unofficial coalitions and of the youth networks.

[The national coalitions of the youth networks were not encouraged. Last year a network of youth centers was created but it did not prove its efficiency. Non-governmental coalitions for the youth have not been made by now, as a proof of this, I can point out to the fact that the National Council of The Romanian Youth was not granted any legal form. This council, as the only unofficial coalition in Romania has not shown its receptivity towards the young, and so it is virtually unknown among the young people and it has not supported them by actions or youth programs]

6. The strengthening of partnership relations between all interested persons/institutions, especially youth networks, nongovernmental institutions and organizations, organizations that include young women, governments, international agencies, educational institutions, civil society, the business sector, and mass media, in order to create a strategy for a better communication of the problems of youth, both at the national and local level.

[Unfortunately there is no inter-sectors communication in Romania, at least not in what youth is concerned, and partnerships between the governmental sector and the non-governmental sector as well as partnerships within the non-governmental sector have not been supported by the government, having developed only from the initiative of the non-governmental sector.]

7. To introduce instruments that measure the goals and indicators that allow the existence of a common basis for a national evaluation of the above mentioned policies.

[At this time in Romania, there are no such instruments measuring the efficiency of youth policies nor any indicators serving these measurements.]

8. To support the bilateral, sub regional, regional and national exchange of the best national applications in the process of development, implementation and evaluation of the youth policy, and to assure right instruments for the evolution and the technical assistance, by creating networks.

[This is not even worth mentioning, taking into account that a process of developing a national youth policy never existed.]

9. To ensure that the national youth policy, international development, programs and plans, have a major role.

[This major role offered to national policies, is ambiguously mentioned in speeches, considerable changes taking place only in the sector of formal education. Unfortunately, the national plan for youth suffers because it comprises too many generalities, it is not assumed by all involved sectors and therefore its effects made no positive changes in the youth sector.]

8. Indicators of the Romanian youth policy

In the last part of this introduction I shall provide the indicators regarding the youth policy in Romania divided in three categories: strengths and weaknesses and threats. These are taken from the National Plan of Action for The Youth from the year 2001.

I would like to mention that in National Plan of Action for The Youth 2001 and in **The National Plan for The Youth 2003, the PRES analysis is identical and the same thing can be said about the SWOT analysis.** The only difference is that the SWOT analysis has three indicators less in 2003. Otherwise, the figures are identical.

However, I cannot help noticing the use of the copy/paste technique in official documents that evaluate indicators two years apart.

This copy/paste shows not only the lack of professionalism, but also, and more dramatically, the way in which the Romanian competent authority in the field treats the youth policy.

I consider the data below to be reflecting the reality.

1.DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS:

- <u>Strong points</u>	- Weak points	- Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people are a <u>resource</u> - Young people choose to live together in marriage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nuptial rate is falling - Female fertility decreasing - The simple substitution of generations is no longer assured (the conjectural parameter of fertility is declining) - A mortality rate higher than the birth rate - Deficient sex and reproduction education - The migratory flow of young people from the country-side to the cities - The young people are the main elements in the migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term demographical decline and aging of the population - External migration - Decrease of the young population - Internal migration - Increase in the number of unemployed city dwellers, increased demographical aging of the rural population, low opportunities of reviving rural activities

2. INDICATORS OF THE STANDARD OF LIVING AND CONDITIONS

<u>Strong points</u>	Weak points	Threats
<p>-Young people are more satisfied by their professional and private life.</p> <p>-Positive opinions of the young concerning their private security and the respecting of their rights in society</p> <p>-Income evaluation by the youth is showing a positive dynamics</p> <p>Social tolerance at high rates among the young people</p>	<p>-Young people negatively evaluate their standard of living</p> <p>-Diminishing real income in all types of households</p> <p>-Most young people place themselves on the negative slope of the poor-wealthy scale (9 levels)</p> <p>-The main source of income for the young people is <u>the family</u></p> <p>-Changes in the structure of their diet: main food is replaced by substitutes</p> <p>-Young people see an unjust difference between income rates in society</p> <p>-The pessimistic perception of young people on their access to housing</p> <p>-The young are unsatisfied with the interpersonal relationships</p>	<p>-The decrease of income negatively influences the standard of living thus enhancing the gap between various types of household</p> <p>-The economical dependence of the young people on their family</p> <p>-Long and mid term negative consequences due to the difficulties entailed by the acquiring of a residence</p> <p>-The dependence of the young on their family with respect to housing</p> <p>-The young generation's biological change due to modifications in their diet</p> <p>-Youth's lack of motivation due to negative perception on high income differences in society</p> <p>-Dissatisfaction with interpersonal relations leads to the atomization of social relations and to their reduction to family or vicinity level.</p>

3. HEALTH INDICATORS

<u>strong points</u>	Weak points	Threats
<p>Young people are optimistic when it comes to their health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The low quality of medical care services - Reduced offer of sanitary services for the youth - Diseases with high numbers of victims among the young (tuberculosis, STD, AIDS, etc.) - High rates of STD among the young people - High abortion rate for the young women - Low use of modern contraceptive methods - Gap between the quality of rural and urban healthcare services. - The quality of healthcare services for students is decreasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diseases encountered while being young have negative consequences both biologically (lower immunity, decrease of fertility, physical and psychological handicaps, lower life expectancy), and social (misfit, isolation, reduced work capacity and professional perspectives) - Social differentiation of healthcare services

4. CULTURAL INDICATORS

<u>Strong points</u>	Weak points	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The young generation has available spare time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small fraction of the free time is used for cultural consumption - Entertainment is the main way to spend free time - Low interest for traditional cultural activities - No financial support for cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mass society tends to replace the traditional, authentic cultural consumption with leisure activities, as elements of consumption society. - Social misuse of time resources.

5. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<u>Strong points</u>	Weak points	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased work availability for young workforce (high rate of activity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High youth unemployment rate, with tendencies of becoming chronic Young people's occupational statute vulnerability Weak entrepreneurial spirit of the youth Young workforce mainly used in <u>unimportant positions</u> young people's employment shows uncertainty, exclusion and lack of diversity Young people's skills are not correlated with the requirements of the labor market, especially for university graduates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the dynamic of the restructuring process is beyond the system's capacity of reorientation and new professional qualification the differences between the educational market and the labor market enhance unemployment and lead to the emergence of deviant and delinquent behavior The loss of employment causes either raising unemployment rates or increasing numbers of unpaid family members lack of interest towards typical rural activities

6. EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION INDICATORS

<u>Strengths</u>	Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young workforce is <i>relatively well educated/trained</i> Rising gross inclusion rates of all education forms. Educational drop-out rate is decreasing Young people's positive opinion about the quality of education in their home town Extended network of universities Romanian education meets EU requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing rate of educational inclusion, especially in secondary education Reduction number of people of school age. the poor relation between types of higher education , public and private, and the requirements of the labor market educational dropout due to economic reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Misuse of human potential (using someone below the level of his training) Youth's losing of professional aptitudes Limited access to education because of financial problems

7. INDICATORS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATION

<u>Strong points</u>	Weak points	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The positive opinion that young people share regarding the citizens participation in solving community problems Youth orientation towards European values (the positive view of the democratic values) Prior satisfactory performance of youth NGO's in implementing programs/projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low capacity of youth NGO's to administrate the problems in this domain Reduced civic and political participation of the youth Decrease in trust in state institutions negative perception of the politic environment and of politicians reduced satisfaction with political life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low interest in assuming responsibilities concentrating on existing youth NGO's might distort the allocation of resources and stop the forming of new youth NGO's young people don't understand the personal utility of association

8. INDICATORS OF DEVIANCE AND DELINQUENCY

<u>Strong points</u>	Weak points	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existence of organizations that fight against delinquency by specific programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increasing number of young criminals The slight increase in the number of young female criminals High frequency of theft Increased number of violent crimes Drug consumers are predominantly young Drugs abuse – mostly in the urban environment Inefficiency of some rehabilitation programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diversification and enhancement of juvenile delinquency and deviant behavior More cases of going back to drug addiction

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- ⁱ Youth Policy Formulation Manual , ESCAP, United Nation, New York, 1999, p 13
- ⁱⁱ Tineretul la răscruce de milenii: realități și perspective, Chișinău, USM, 2000, p 22
- ⁱⁱⁱ Youth Policy Formulation Manual , ESCAP, United Nation, New York, 1999, p 9
- ^{iv} Mihailescu I, Interview for Pro-Youth Association, București 2005
- ^v The figures relating to the data below are extracted from *Anuarul Statistic al Romaniei 2003* and are modified according to the age so that they would match the reality in 2005. Also, the all the figures serving the the statistics in this introduction are extracted from *Anuarul Statistic al Romaniei 2003* and worked upon for the age group 15-24.
- ^{vi} Youth Policy Formulation Manual , ESCAP, United Nation, New York, 1999, p 16
- ^{vii} Carta Federației Engleze pentru Tineret, Londra 1999
- ^{viii} Of the points stated, those pertaining to the family are extracted from I.Mihailescu, *Sociologie Geneală, Polirom, București, 2003* (p 165-172)
- ^{ix} National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century", p 4
- ^x National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century", p 4
- ^{xi} National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century", p 5
- ^{xii} United Nation, World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (91 st plenary meeting 14 December 1995)
- ^{xiii} National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century", p 8
- ^{xiv} „The residence, is the main support element in living conditions and most households own the residence (94% in 1999) Lack of housing constitutes a major problem for young families.” Ioan Mărginean (Coordonator) – *Calitatea vieții în România 1990-2003*, ICCV - Decembrie 2003, p 4
- ^{xv} Lazăr Vlăsceanu, Ana Maria Dima, *Întâlnire cu studenții*, Editura Paideia, Bucuresti, 2000, p 14
- ^{xvi} Lazăr Vlăsceanu, Ana Maria Dima, *Întâlnire cu studenții*, Editura Paideia, Bucuresti, 2000, p 28
- ^{xvii} „Perhaps one of the most serious problems that legally is solved by the residence policy, is the most painful problem, because the state only facilitates, because it offers credits with preferential interest rates, mortgage credit was encouraged through banks that continue to have a state capital, but also through the agency of private banks, yet the main financial contribution is left to the family; whereas the dynamics of real estate prices no longer allows the access of many categories of the population that have an income which does not cover the expenses of a mortgage credit even on 15 years, and the number of social homes is still relatively small compared to the number of people that require access to lower prices, to homes of social type. But this policy does not solve the problem of young people with income under the average value crowding the parents' family, the consequences being the postponed marriage because young men and women don't get married without havin a place to live, or get married and live with their parents creating tension, overcrowding of the home and other problems arising from this, including a lower rate of natality, because families do not decide to have children before they solve the habitation problem. There are consequences in many fields born out of this apparently simple problem, the one of homes.” I Mihailescu, interview for the Pro-Youth association, Bucharest, 2005.
- ^{xviii} Bogdan Voicu - *Capitalul Uman*, prezentare ICCV
- ^{xix} National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century", p 6, 11
- ^{xx} Youth Policy Formulation Manual , ESCAP, United Nation, New York, 1999, p 17
- ^{xxi} National Youth Policies, The Education of Young People: A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century", p 3.
- ^{xxii} In this analysis I have made use of a summary of the Lisbon Declaration as presented in Youth Policy Formulation Manual , ESCAP, United Nation, New York, 1999.



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EDUCATION

An overall view upon the last 10 years evolution of the Romanian educational system shows that one of the priorities was the reform of the educational system in order to modernize the system, to adapt it to the new socio-economic realities, and to orientate the educational system toward quality and performance.

1. The basic education

Regarding the basic education, a series of programmers were developed in order to improve the conditions of the educational process by endowing and rehabilitating the educational centers. These programmers covered the widest areas of the basic education: the education in schools and high schools, art and vocational schools and rural education.

Developed projects

The reform project for the basic education (The Education Reform Project – RO 3742) was developed between 1995 and 2001. For this project the Government of Romania was granted by the World Bank with a loan of 50.000.000 USD. The objectives of the project were:

- the modifying of the curriculum;
- the elaboration and the implementation of the alternative manuals system;
- providing the necessary educational resources.

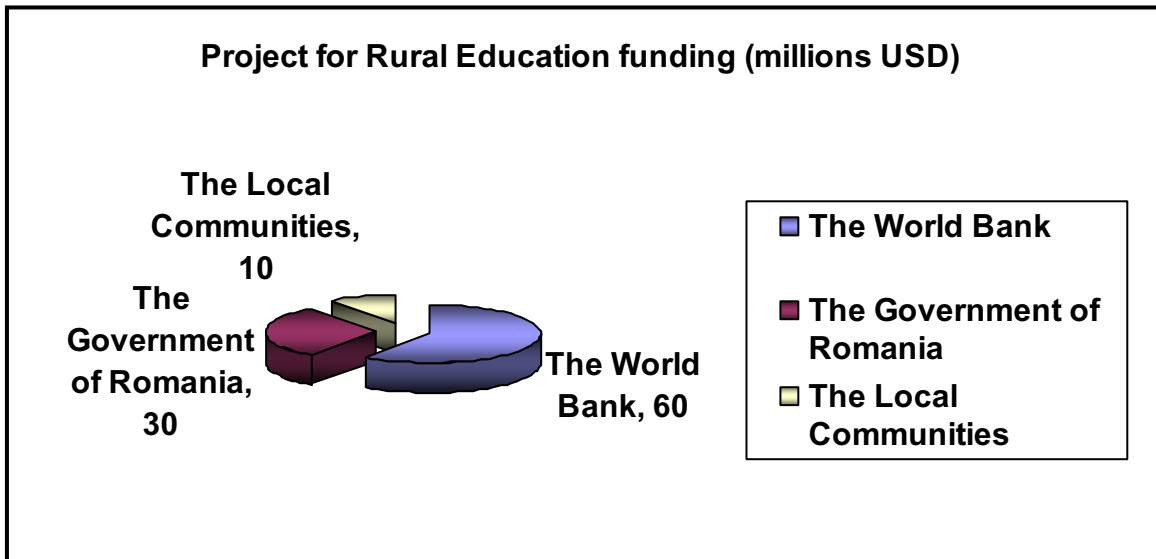
Another developed program in the field of the basic education is **PHARE-VET**, a program which regards the endowing and the rehabilitation of the technological high schools as well as the art and vocational schools. This project was initiated in 2001 and is still running.

Between 1996 and 2003, due to a loan granted by EIB and BDCE, there were several others projects for schools and hostels rehabilitation. The number of beneficiaries is up to 250,000 children.

Beginning with 2003 (until 2009) the Project for Rural Education Development is on the run. The objectives of this project are:

- improving the quality of the teaching-learning activities in the rural schools;
- improving the cooperation between community and school;
- strengthening the capacity of policies elaborating, evaluating and monitoring;

- strengthening the managerial capability of the Project Management Unit for Rural Education.



The Information Technology Educational System (ITES) is a complex program initiated in 2001 by the Romanian Ministry for Education and Research, a program having as the main objective the use of the latest technologies in the educational process at its basic level.

Although the allocated funds are still poor and insufficient for assuring the implementation of ITES in all basic education centers, the development of this program stands as a step forward towards improving the educational process.

2. The reformation of the curriculum

The process of improving the quality of the curriculum and adapting it to the requirements of the modern society (and especially to the actual tendency of globalization as well as to the need of youth mobility) was marked by the signing of **the Bologna Declaration**. This represented a turning point for youth education in Romania and the starting point for some of the major reforms in the educational system.

Therefore, in 1999, when the Bologna Declaration was signed, started the process of bringing the Romanian educational system to the European standards.

The objectives of the Bologna Process were:

- adopting of a diploma system similar to the European one;
- adopting a 3 cycle system;
- establishing a points-based system;
- assuring the quality of education;
- promoting the mobility;
- promoting the cooperation at the European level in order to assure the education quality;
- promoting the European dimension throughout the education;
- lifelong learning;
- promoting the attractiveness of the European area of the High education;
- promoting the doctoral studies and the synergy between the European area of the High education and the European area of the research;

The Bologna Declaration was followed by a series of High Level Meetings of the signing states Education Ministers: Lisbon – 2000, Prague – 2001, Barcelona – 2002, Berlin – 2003.

Therefore, **the Law regarding the university studiesⁱ**, passed in 2004, established the implementing of a 3 cycle education (bachelor – 3 years, master – 2 years, doctoral studies – 3 years). A Government Decision was given to establish the study areas. The result was the wider fields' bachelor diplomas in order to eliminate the strait specializations which narrow the graduates' access on the labor market.

For bringing the Romanian educational system closer to the European one, there were also introduced the points-based system and the diploma

supplement system. All these were designed to ease the competence recognition on the European labor market.

At this moment (February 2005), the diplomas released by the Romanian Government are not recognized at the international level, but the responsible authorities have as an objective to establish agreements with the European states in this respect. The evolution towards Romania becoming a member state of the European Union also makes these efforts an imperative. As European citizens, the young Romanians will need to be granted their mobility and equality of chances outside Romania's borders.

As the education reform measures need to be interconnected at all levels, the reform of the educational system also included the reformation of the basic education. For coordinating the basic education curriculum reform and for assuring the coherence of the measures undertaken, the **National Council for Curriculumⁱⁱ** was established in 2000. The NCC is a public institution, with juridical personality, that is specialized in elaborating, developing, implementing and revising the national curriculum. The objective of NCC is to assure the quality of the national curriculum for basic education.

3. New directions for youth education

The Romanian educational system was reformed between 1995 and 2005. The objective of the reforms was to implement the new European standards and requirements. The legislative framework for education was modified in 1995 when **the new Education Lawⁱⁱⁱ** was passed. This law changing was the result of the field evolutions in the Western countries.

Starting from this new legislative framework, the modernization of the educational system was carried out by authorizing and recognizing of a number of private education institutions, so that the quality of education should improve together with the competitiveness of the educational institutions.

For putting into act the reform of the educational system, the Government of Romania made an agreement with the World Bank to receive a credit between 1995 and 2001. Therefore, for the **High Education Reform programmed**, the Government of Romania was financed with 50,000,000 USD.

The areas of the reform, as targeted by the program, were:

- the curriculum,
- the college education,
- the master programs,
- the mobility of the students, of the post-graduates and the teaching personnel,
- the creation of research data bases with multiple users.

Agreements and partnerships were established with different countries for permitting the students exchanges and assuring students' mobility.

As being part of the Program for Students Exchanges from Central European Universities, the Romanian Ministry of National Education established the CEEPUS National Bureau as a Ministry's department.

The responsibilities of the CEEPUS National Bureau are, as specified by the Law^{iv}:

- a) the dissemination of the programe information;
- b) the centralization of the applications;
- c) making the preparations for conferring the grants;
- d) establishing the studying place for the grants beneficiaries;
- e) to offer the grants under the conditions stipulated by the CEEPUS Program – Measure 5;
- f) to assure the practical aspects of the grants conferring;
- g) to receive the reports;

- h) to make the national evaluation of the program;
- i) to make annual reports for the Ministries Committee.

In 1998 the National Bureau for Foreign Study Grants^v was created as a public institution under the coordination of the Ministry for National Education. The NBFSG coordinates the study grants proposal and the selection procedures, also having the responsibility of offering the essential information and assistance for the interested.

In 1999 was created, as part of the Ministry for National Education the National Centre for Diplomas Recognition and Validation^{vi}. The Centre has the role of endorsing, recognizing and validating the study diplomas and the role of exchanging information with the ENIC/NARIC European network.

At the same time, some measures were taken in 2000 for encouraging young professionals to come back to Romania after finishing their studies.

The Ministry for National Education approved, after obtaining the advice of the National Council for High Education Scientific Research, the proposal of the Universities' Councils of creating the research centers for major programmers – the excellence centers – and postgraduate study centers, inside the accredited universities. The excellence centers and the postgraduate studies centres are the places where the most valuable teachers develop their activity, and where the young can make their own research for the doctoral thesis. They also have the opportunity of continuing their research activity in these centres after obtaining the doctoral degree.

There was also established a legislative framework which includes measures for rewarding the young who received distinctions at international scholar contests and the doctoral students with excellent results in their research activity^{vii}.

For increasing the quality of the education, annual holding of training courses for basic education teachers was set. These training courses follow the Scholarship System of the Council of Europe^{viii}, and they are meant to be an experience exchange between Romanian and foreign teachers.

One of the main tendencies in the youth education is giving a special importance to the professional training of the young and to their access to the lifelong education programs. This is why in 1998 the general legislative framework for lifelong professional training was set up^{ix}.

For the same purpose, beginning with the 1st of September 1997 Romania became active partner of the 'Leonardo da Vinci' European program^x, programs intended for the professional training of the labor force. In 1998, the National Centre for Leonardo da Vinci Programs^{xi} was created as a public institution.

In 1998 the National Centre for Developing the Professional and Technical Education^{xii} was also created, under the authority of the Ministry for National

Education. The Centre was meant to continue the reform of the professional and technical educational system, which was began with the support of the European Union under the PHARE VET RO 9405 Program.

As for the training of young professionals for Romania's becoming a member of the European Union, the 'Nicolae Titulescu' studies and research scholarships for postgraduate and postdoctoral studies^{xiii} were created.

The Law of Education includes a chapter concerning the education of national minorities. According to the law, the young belonging to the national minorities have the right to study and receive instruction in their mother tongue, at all levels and forms of education. This way, the minorities' rights are protected and the cultural diversity of the Citizens is promoted.

The Law of Education does not contain any reference assuring the gender equality, although the gender equality is guaranteed by the Romanian Constitution as a fundamental right.

4. The lifelong education

During the past years the interest in developing special programs for the youth, in providing the context for their professional development and in offering them the opportunity to adapt to the labor market increased together with the increase in number of the programs for professional training and lifelong education.

In 2000, the legal bases concerning the social partnership for initial education and professional development were established.

This partnership supposes a strong collaboration between the educational institutions - educational unit, inspectorate, the Ministry of National Education and other institutions under their subordination – and institutions such as:

- a) Economical agents and interested public authorities;
- b) Universities, research and development institutions, expertise centres, other institutions involved in the educational improvement process;
- c) Other beneficiaries: parents, students, business community, professional associations, syndicates, nongovernmental organizations, local community;
- d) Mass media, as an essential element of disseminating information on the social impact of education.

The Law no. 133 of 21 July 2000 establishes the criteria of the permanent vocational education using. The permanent education is realized by precise programs organized by public and private institutions whose activities carry on the social partnership using multimedia methods: education by correspondence, distance education, videoconferences, and computer based training, etc.

One of the most important programs developed during this period is the Socrates Grundtwig 2 – Partnerships for education 2001-2003.

5. The non-formal education

The non-formal education was improved starting with 1998.

The National Institute of Administration organizes non-formal educational programmers for civil servants and for the other Public Administration servants. The Institute organizes intensive courses for a brief period. The employer supports the costs for these trainings.

The European Institute of Romania keeps courses concerning the Union European issue.

Between 1998 and 2001, the XXII General Directorate (Education, Formation and Youth XXII) of the European Commission has financed the Socrates ESTEEM Project (European Study Circle based on a new Environmental Education Methodology) dedicated to adults education.

There also exists a series of functional e-Learning systems:

At the lifelong education level

- The Online Academy
- AEL (Advanced e-Learning)

At the University education level

- The National School of Political and Administrative Studies – The Faculty of Communication
- The Academy for Economical Studies
- The Polytechnic University of Bucharest
- The Babes-Bola University of Cluj-Napoca
- The University of Galati
- The University of Oradea
- The West University of Timisoara

6. The nongovernmental organizations active in promoting the education for the young people

There is a series of nongovernmental organizations involved in the development of the education, such as The Education 2000+ Centre, Junior Achievement Romania. Based on the study of the results of the projects contest organized by the National Authority for Youth we can observe the existence of a deep interest for educational programs at the level of the Youth Organizations.

Some of the most important programs developed by the Education 2000+ Centre are: The Education 2000+ debates (2003-2005), Equal Chances (2001-2004); The encouragement of no risk behavior HIV/AIDS/ITS for all the people, especially for the young between 15-24 years (2004-2005); the Education 2000+ (1999-2002); Second Chance (1999-2002); Start for success – the development of services for fighting against the school desertion; Services for orientation and guidance (2001-2003); The conception of a program for encouraging the labor market entering (2002-2003); Together for a better community (2002-2004); The development of human resources in theoretical high schools for a better adaptation to the needs of the labor market (2002-2003); I want a Career (2001-2004); The Project for Promoting the Civic Education in the elementary school by participating at extra-curricular activities with a interdisciplinary character (2003-2004); A better education for Roma children. Focus – Romania (2001-2002); A better education in the disadvantaged areas (2001-2001); Critical thinking and active learning (2000-2003); We and our neighbors in the history books (2003-2004); The dissemination and the implementing of “Helpdesks” materials for an intercultural learning (2002-2003).

7. The education for the disadvantaged groups

Concerning the education for the disadvantaged groups, Romania has as a priority to provide the access to education for the persons with special educational needs.

They are considered as having special educational needs: the persons with handicap, the persons infected with HIV/SIDA, the persons with difficulties (without parent support, who abandoned school, without a home), persons who have problems with the law. Briefly, it is about young people with difficulties in adapting to the school environment. These people's needs and the support they can get (depending on their capacity of study, progress and adapt) are established by the specialized commissions.

Taking into account their individual needs, the young with special issues are integrated into normal schools, special schools, or into programmers for individualized educational intervention. The commissions also have the responsibility of making periodic re-evaluations of these young people in order to establish the eventual necessity of modifying the intervention programmers.

The education of the disadvantaged young people is based on strong principles in respect of their right be treated according with their special educational needs, to beneficiate of a future professional integration and of a normal evolution and social adaptation, of not being the subject of the social exclusion.

The legal framework settles the special procedures for the young with difficulties:

The Law of Education no.84/1995 clarifies the status of the people with special educational needs and assures their chances of social integration.

The Law regarding the **equality of chances**^{xiv} establishes the conditions for granting **social scholarships** for the University education. The University can have extra budgetary financial resources to offer the social scholarships for the entire educational period. The first year students who come from families without the minimum financial resources can obtain a social scholarship for all the years of study.

The legal framework settles the access of the **migrants** to the fundamental education. It mentions especially the children who come from migrants families of the European Union member states.

The “Second Chance” Program develops the Program for fighting against the social and professional exclusion of the young who dropped the school and who do not have the necessary competences for getting a job – programme that was developed for the elementary education from 1999 until 2000. This program

Romanian Youth Policies

was developed in partnership between The Ministry of National Education and The Foundation for an Open Society and on the legal basis of the Convention of partnership signed on April 5, 1999 and the National Education Minister's Act no. 4.231/1999. The program the "Second Chance" has as the main goal supporting the children over 14 who, for social reasons, have not graduate the elementary school so that they may continue their studies and may be professionally qualified^{xv}.

As a general tendency, Romania discourages the assimilation of the young disadvantaged people into standard disadvantaged groups and encourages the assuring of their special educational needs peculiar to each individual. The target is to optimize the integration and the reintegration of young disadvantaged people and to reduce the number of institutionalized young people increasing the average of disadvantaged people reintegrated into the normal educational institutions.

8. Governmental assistance services for youth in order to enter the labor market

In accordance with the increase in interest, at the European level, of providing counseling for choosing and developing youth careers, the Romanian Government supports the development of assistance and advising programmers. These programmers are developed in state educational institutions by specialized personnel – in Psycho pedagogical Assistance Centres, in centres subordinated to The National Agency for the Labor Force – and through the Socrates (for the education component) and Leonardo da Vinci (for the professional training component) programmers as well.

Within the project “Informing and counseling for the career” developed by the Government, in 1998 was set up “The Network of Centres for Informing and Professional Counseling”. Furthermore, the counseling and orientation was included in the curriculum as an independent curricular area^{xvi}.

In order to assure the young unemployed reintegration and their re-entry on the labor market, **The National Agency for Labor Force** organizes free qualification/prequalification courses for the young unemployed. This way the young unemployed have the possibility to acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge specific to a new job, which may increase the chances to reintegrate on the labor market. The qualification/prequalification courses cover the entire range of specializations from vocational training to computer alphabetization training.

As for the legislative framework, the Law no.76/2002 regarding the unemployment insurance system and the labor force inducement stipulates that the professional training services can be granted for:

- the persons who became unemployed (with or without redundancy payment);
- those who could not re-enter the labor market after graduating or after accomplishing the military service period;
- those who obtained the refugee status or another form of international protection;
- those who could not re-enter the labor market after being repatriated or after being released from detention.

In order to assure the equality of chances and the youth opportunities of reintegration on the labor market, the Law no.107/2004^{xvii} extended the range of the free professional training courses, including also as follows:

- the persons employed, at the end of the 2 years period dedicated to child care, and the 3 years period permitted in the case of a disability child;

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- those who were re-engaged after accomplishing the military service;
- those who were retired for infirmity and re-engaged after recovering;
- those who work in rural areas and do not reach monthly incomes or reach monthly incomes lower than the redundancy payment and who are registered at the agencies for labor force;
- those who are in detention and have no more than 9 months of detention.

Although the career counseling is recognized by the Romanian Government as a national importance issue, this area is not specifically included within the education reform. The interest for the career counseling is expressed by the attention given to the introduction of the alternative textbooks and to the transformation of the career counseling as a distinct curricular area.

9. Programs and training sessions for building careers

In order to support young people that are at the beginning of their careers, a new legislative framework was set up to regulate the priorities and facilities offered to this category. Also, a series of programs were established in order to give the young and talented people the possibility to accede to the career they desire.

At the global level, the interest for offering such opportunities is operated by APART (The National Agency for the Partnership between Universities and the Economic-Social Environment). This institution has the mission to promote and support joint actions of universities, economic agents, institutions and companies in order to develop specific partnerships, professional training, technological transfer, and organization of business centers and of technological parks, research of the labor market. It also aims at offering a new perspective to the cooperation between universities and the social-economic environment, at facilitating the absorption of the university graduates by the labor market and at developing the entrepreneurial dimension of the Romanian universities.

In 2003, the Government issued an Ordinance **on granting fiscal facilities to students that wish to set up their own businesses**^{xviii}.

It is quite easy to have access to these facilities for the students that want to set up their own businesses, as the accession conditions are not so difficult to match.

Unfortunately, there is not a central database of the overall number of students benefiting so far from the provisions of this Government Ordinance.

Usually, it is the case of financial constraints. The big costs necessary to set up a business, the lack of a good business plan, the inaccurate assessment of the costs many times lead to renunciation. This constraint is given by the taxes and duties that the companies set up by students have to pay.

The **START Program**, that became operational from 6 September 2004 (the moment when it was published in the Official Gazette), aims at developing the entrepreneurial abilities among young people, facilitating their access to micro-credits (up to 5000 Euros), granted by the Romanian Commercial Bank. The program is operated by a Governmental Agency, The National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperation.

Besides the Governmental support, there are also NGOs supporting the setting up of various businesses. For example, JAR (Junior Achievement Romania) operates the "Student Company" Project, by which teams of young people from high schools and universities are encouraged to set up businesses. Initially, the activity takes place without setting up a certain company; after that, if

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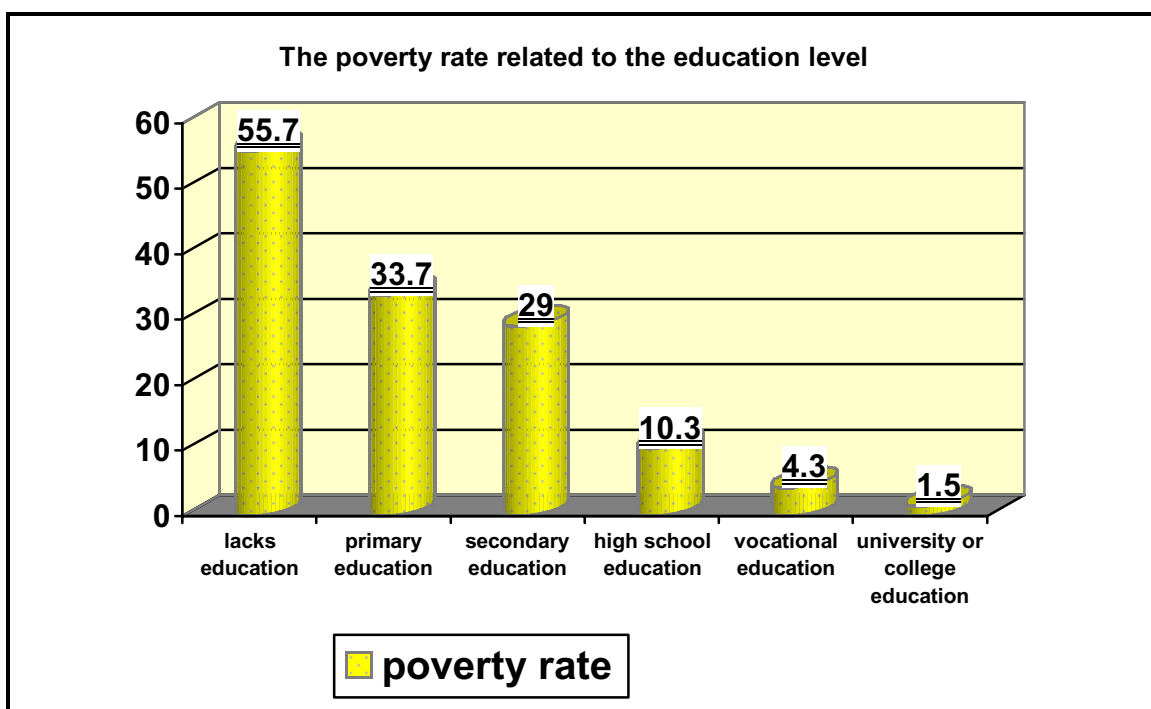
the experiment is good, the team can decide upon the registration of the company in the Registrar of Companies.

The **JA Programs** have been offered to Romania since 1993. All the programs have been translated and adapted and are available both in English and Romanian. The JA curriculum for pupils supplements the curriculum prepared by the Ministry of Education and Research with economic concepts and with skills necessary for operating within the economic field outside school classes by offering optional courses to pupils and students from 6 to 22 years.

Many Organizations for Students and Youth operate projects in order to develop the managerial abilities of young people. ("The Business Club of the Students", The Agency for Supporting the Students).

10. Quantifiers

THE RISK OF POVERTY ACCORDING TO THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN 2003



“The analysis of poverty for 2003 confirms the importance of the educational inventory: it is the most important predictive index of the poverty risk. The participation to higher education almost cancels the poverty risk. The graduation of each educational cycle in the training process represents a consistent decrease of the poverty risk^{xix}”.

The dynamics of the educational coverage, by educational levels^{xx} - % -

	1995-1996	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
TOTAL	62,7	65,7	66,9	68,2	64,2	64,4
Preschool education	58,4	65,2	66,1	67,5	71,0	70,9
Primary and second education, as:	85,4	89,0	92,3	88,8	89,2	89,3
- primary	91,6	91,4	94,2	93,8	93,1	94,0
- secondary	78,8	86,9	90,8	85,3	86,3	85,7
High school and vocational education, as:	55,6	58,4	66,0	64,8	65,6	65,2
- high school	40,6	43,9	47,8	46,9	47,0	46,9
- vocational	14,9	14,5	18,2	17,9	18,6	18,4
Vocational education	2,6	4,6	4,0	3,9	3,5	3,2
College education	11,5	15,5	18,1	20,3	23,0	24,6

Source: NIS

“According to the data offered by CASPIS, the risk of school abandonment for children living in poor families is more than double compared to the risk for those living in families that are not poor, and this risk increases more than three times for those children living in extremely poor families. In 2003, the rate of the children that abandoned school at an early age was of 23.2% compared to the value of 18.1% for EU-15 and 16.0% in the case of EU-25^{xxi}”. This fact leads to the conclusion that one out of four young people does not possess any kind of

qualification on the labor market. This is the starting point of the complaints formulated by employers concerning the performances of a newly graduate.

It is important to notice that the learning process cantered on student was put into practice only at the level of the discourse, as, at present, we do not possess any performance indices measuring the competence of graduates, at the high school and university level. We refer to that type of indices that could measure the student's degree of competence cumulated with the performances the student could match/ achieve on the labor market. At present, the stress is on the theoretical competence of the graduates. It is true that it could not be other way, as long as during the period of studies, the preponderance of the practical tasks is much reduced and obsolete school objects are still an important part of the curriculum for young people. Only 21% of the young people that participated in a research study stated that the educational institutions matched to a great extent the needs of the labor market.

On the other hand, according to the data presented, there is a poor communication between educational institutions and NGOs or business environment.

“After 1989, the Romanian system has been characterized by numerous changes, due to the unsteady educational policies that many times have led to confusion among people (L. Vlasceanu pr. Coord., 2001)^{xxii}”, certain Students’ Federations labeling the process of the educational reform as 13 years of experiments.

II. SWOT analysis

The most important positive aspects (the “strong points” of the Romanian educational system) of this period are:

- Correlating the school curriculum with the European standards, as a result of the adoption of the Statement of Bologna;
- Admitting the existence of some special educational needs of the groups with problems;
- Stimulating the mobility of young people by developing a network of Romanian and foreign educational institutions having a close cooperation and by means of a better organization of the scholarship system, as well as by initiating some actions in order to achieve the acknowledgement of the Romanian diplomas abroad;
- Initiating projects in order to ensure specific and specialized assistance to young people;
- Implementing projects (scholarships and training) supporting the professional building of the young people.

Unfortunately, there are also failures of the measures undertaken to improve the educational system. One can notice, too, that not all the actions undertaken had the expected result. Several “weak points” can be mentioned:

- The funds allocated for endowing the educational institutions were, in the most of the cases, insufficient or misused;
- The alternative textbooks system does not function perfectly and disparities of the curriculum can interfere;
- The scholarships and the trainings available as part of the governmental or non-governmental programmes are insufficient;
- The dissemination of the information regarding the educational programmes is inefficient;
- The specialized assistance at the services of the youth is poor and less promoted;
- The effective involvement of the youth in the educational process (their influence in designing its evolution) is poor;

- There is a lack of public-private partnership between the educational institutions and the business environment;
- There is a lack of concordance between the curricular area and the labor market;
- Non-formal educational programmers are still immature and low in number;
- There is a lack of graduate profile (the level of theoretical and practical competences that each study field should guarantee);
- The presence of the study objects with new title and description but with the same contents 'in the respect of' the teacher's old-fashioned methods;
- The phenomenon of school abandon because of financial reasons.

Threats

- ◆ The increase in number of the school abandons situations for the children coming from poor families;
- ◆ The lack of professional qualifications as a result of the school abandon;
- ◆ The habit of giving the young graduates job responsibilities under their qualifications;
- ◆ The limited access to education as a consequence of the low income.

Opportunities

- ⇒ The tendency of developing effective involvement of the young and of the youth organizations in the Reform process;
- ⇒ The development of partnerships with the business environment;
- ⇒ The involvement of the economic agents in the educational process;
- ⇒ The adaptation of the curriculum to the needs of the labor market;
- ⇒ The development of a large number of non-formal educational programmers for the youth;
- ⇒ The increase in number of the practical studies in the curriculum.

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Translated by Cornelia Olteanu, Alina Stanescu

Employment

1. Labor market and young people in Romania. Characteristics and phenomena.
2. Normative acts and social programs stimulating the employment of youth.
3. Effects and achievements of the youth employment measures.
4. SWOT analysis. Conclusions and recommendations
5. Appendix

1. Labor market and young people in Romania Characteristics and phenomena

One may say that social exclusion (poverty, more generally) can be defined on the following coordinates:

- democratic and legal system suitable for civic integration;
- social integration closely defined in connection to the system of the welfare state;
- the family and the community who are accountable for interpersonal integration;
- the labor market, with a vital role in economic integration.

As it can be seen, the labor market has an extremely important role in dealing with the problem of social exclusion. So we will further refer too problems pertaining to the way young people are integrated in the labor market.

The situation of young people in Romania really creates serious problems. Statistics show that between 1994 and 1997 the unemployment among young people (persons younger than 25) represented 40-50% of the general unemployment. The highest percentage of unemployed young people was in 1996 (50.9 %), when general unemployment had the lowest percentage (6.6 %). This fact proves that young people are a stabile group among the unemployed (structural unemployment), a group that is not affected by changes on the labor market (if the low percentage of general unemployment raises the proportion of young unemployed, then their group is constant).

The labor market is competitive by definition, and one of the conditions for success is the experience. Regardless of the training level of a young person, the experience of a job generates the attitude and the skills of a good employee. The

lack of practice, of experience is one of the causes that make the access of young people in the labor market difficult.

The lack of experience is a handicap of young people, as there is a great deal of difference between the way "quality" is understood in Romanian schools and the way it is perceived on the labor market, by the employers. A single example: at school it is very important to know the name and biographical data about some illustrious predecessor. To succeed at a job interview for employment in a private company this fact is not at all important, actually it is irrelevant. More than that, trying to show all your knowledge can be a disadvantage. Whether we like it or not, this is the reality.

Social policies regarding the integration of young people in the labor market did not produce the results expected, although a certain decrease of the percentage of young people among the people without a job has been remarked. One of the reasons is that an important role was given to passive policies (money transfer for the young unemployed) and not to active policies against unemployment among young people (vocational guidance, specializing courses, the stimulation of creating new jobs).

Continuous specialization and reorientation of the young unemployed do not have full success in fighting unemployment unless new jobs are created at the same time. However, a positive fact is stimulated in this case, the interchange between working and non-working people, having as effect the reduction of long-lasting unemployment.

But, as long as the job supply is inferior to the job demand, the unemployment is endemic. This is desirable to a certain point (it is said that a certain level of unemployment stimulates work competitiveness; the effects are negative over this level, because they may generate social tensions and because a potential-labor force remains unexploited).

It is not to forget the fact the migration of young people to the West is due mainly to the high and structural unemployment among young people. The migration of young people for working in the West is not negative unless they settle down abroad forever. In this case human resources, which represent an extremely important potential of development is lost.

Young people represent the future of Romania, and the phenomenon of migration and the problem of unemployment among them becomes very serious and it requires a quick and efficient solution.

Young people are one of the social categories most affected by the phenomenon on unemployment. Here is how the percentage of the young working population was between 1998 and 2000:

	1998	Trimester III	Trimester III
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				1999		2000	
Active young population	working	3019	2574	3103	2722	3029	2635
	BIM unemployment		445		381		394
		2417		2236		2257	

Young persons confront more and more with a poverty scale over the medium value. A part of the young persons do not have financial independence, they depend on their families' income. One of the most negative aspects that young population confronts with is their employment situation: the unemployment rate among young persons is larger than the average rate of unemployment in the whole country.

The analysis of AMIGO data in 1998-2000 (a research of the National Institute of Statistics) illustrates the following facts:

1. There is a great number of available young persons
2. BIM unemployment rate among young people was double comparative to the BIM unemployment rate in the whole country.

The dimension of unemployment

	1998		1999		2000	
The total of unemployment from which:	793018	%	832502	%	698997	%
Less than 25 years old	247573	31.2	242966	29.5	218640	31.2
25-29 years old	95780	12.1	94132	11.5	78965	11.4
The total of the young unemployment	343353	43.3	337098	41.0	297605	42.6

- Young people represented in 2002 the main source of fueling the total unemployment (30%).
- The most affected are those less than 25 years old (approximately one of three unemployed was young)

The duration of unemployment

	1998		1999		2000	
The total of unemployment from which	343353	%	337098	%	297605	%
Under 9 months	175135	51.0	157622	46.8	136449	45.8
9-12 months	18622	5.4	32608	9.7	31012	10.4
12-27 months	149596	43.6	146868	43.5	130144	43.8

Conclusions:

- unemployment duration becomes longer: the percentage of those who receive unemployment benefit decreases and the percentage of long-lasting unemployment increases.
- Active measures for employing young people were not efficient; the training of the young person for the real demand of the labor market has not been correlated with an efficient vocational guidance.

The structure of unemployment on socio – vocational categories

	1998		1999		2000	
Young unemployment from which:	343353	%	344188*	%	303479*	%
Workers	233288	68	235139	68.3	200983	66.3
Persons with average school	103881	30.2	99546	28.9	9164	30.2

level						
Persons with high school level	6184	1.8	9503	2.8	10882	3.6

* it also includes young people made redundant by OU 98/99 (emergency order)

Conclusions:

- the most affected category – the workers is followed by the category of young persons with medium school level.
- There are deficiencies in the fact that the education market and the labor market are not correlated; the alternative education programs, the programs of information about the labor market demand were not efficient.

So one of the most negative aspects the young population confronts, is the situation of their employment, the unemployment rate among young people is larger than the general unemployment rate.

Unemployment among 20-24 year old persons	Unemployment among 25-29 year-old persons	Percentage of young unemployed (20-29 years)	Young persons (20-29 years) without a first job	General national unemployment rate
25.57%	11.9%	34.6%	20.3%	6.8%

(the source; census, march 2002 – National Institute of Statistics)

- Unemployment among young people between 20-24 years is over 3 times bigger than the general unemployment.
- Young people represented the main source of feeding the total unemployment in 2002.
- Young persons less than 25 years are the most affected.

Extremely frightening is the fact that a significant percentage – 20,3% of the young people (20-29 years) are still looking for the first job, those being the main source of fueling a structural unemployment.

In 2004 the percentage of unemployed looks like this:

	indicator	Jan. 04	Febr. 04	Mar. 04	Apr. 04	May 04
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in the country	The percentage of young persons less than 25 years from the total of the unemployment	20.9%	20.3%	19.7%	18.7%	17.3%
	The percentage of young persons aged between 25-29 years from the total of the unemployment	11.9%	12.3%	11.8%	12.0%	12.0%
In Bucharest	The percentage of young persons less than 25 years from the total of the unemployment	15.2%	13.2%	12.9%	11.9%	11.4%
	The percentage of young persons aged between 25-29 years from the total of the unemployment	9.2%	8.6%	8.3%	8.4%	8.5%

(The source: National Agency of Employing the Labor Power)

- the percentage of unemployed young people less than 25 years tends to fall, but it still remains at a high level (17%);
- we must take account of the fact that there are many unregistered unemployed.

All this data presented here indicates the fact that the efforts of helping young people to look for a job must continue.

2. Social programs and normative acts for the improvement of the situation of young people on the labor market

Social programs

Through the PHARE Program 2000 “Economic and social cohesion” implemented by the Ministry of European Integration along with other institutions with related competences, the “Development of human resources” component, which assures technical and financial assistance to support human resources in the context of industrial restructuring, dealing with the problem of high scale unemployment, of the critical points existing in some regions and fighting against this phenomenon and the strong incidence of unemployment among young people, there have been initiated 146 projects financed with the total sum of 20.9 million Euro (The action Plan for Employing the Labor Power 2004-2005, p 75).

A criterion for grouping the financing programs for youth in Romania is the source of financing. The ensuing types of grants exist in Romania:

- grants financed by the European Union (the manager of granting those funds are sometimes institutions or organizations who act under the leading of the European Union).

Example: Program initiated by the Decision of European Parliament and the Council no. 1031/2000/CE in April the 13th for the establishment of the communitarian program of actions “Young population” (The Official Journal L 117, 05/18/2000). One of the objectives of this program is the appreciation of the initiative, solidarity and entrepreneurial spirit of young people.

- grants from Romania’s state budget, the manager of granting those being the central or local public institutions, or in partnership with some NGO’s, ministries, governmental agencies or local public authorities.

Example: - National Plan of Action for Absorbing Labor Force initiated by Romanian Government (2001-2005);

- Project financed by the Ministry of Young People and Sport through the Young People and Sport Management of Bucharest City for stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit among young people, project which achieved the site www.basepoate.ro

- Projects initiated through the National Authority for Youth – www.e-tineret.ro;

- Projects initiated through the National Agency for Supporting Youth Initiatives – ANSIT – www.ansitromania.ro;

- grants from foreign countries’ budget (the differences between them and grants financed by European Union is that in this case the financing comes from the national budget of certain countries and not from the mutual budget of EU); the

manager of financing is in this case different public institutions from those countries.

Example:

- Program for stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit among young people initiated in 2002, whose effect was the establishment of the site www.chiarpoti.ro among others. The program was controlled by the Economic Development Center, a non-governmental organization.
- another category of grants comes from public or private international institutions, with their own funds (European Council, BERD, OSCE, FMI, The World Bank, etc);
- grants offered by Romanian Nongovernmental Organizations (REC – Regional Centre of Environment Protection for Central and Eastern Europe, FDSC).

Governmental measures for stimulating the integration of youth into the labor market

A. Measures for stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit of young people

- Moderate credits for enterprising students

Starting with June 2004, students under 30 years old who are at the first faculty can contract credits with the interest subsidized by the unemployment insurance budget, interest which represents 25% of the average interest of the National Bank of Romania.

These are granted for those who set up and develop individually or in group small enterprises, cooperative units, family associations or those who undertake some economic activities as authorized natural person.

- Tax facilities for students who want to start a business.

Students who set up companies are exempted from authorization taxes and they have free consulting (Decision No. 166 from 02/13/2003, published in the Official Gazette, part one, no. 114 from 02/24/2003 regarding the granting of tax facilities to students who want to start a business).

B. Governmental measures for employing the young labor force in Romania

- National Program for employing the labor power, which spent 3,014.41 billion lei from the unemployment insurance budget in 2003, 1.94 times more than in 2002. The total amount spent in 2003 for the active social protection of the unemployed represents 20.63% from the total budget expenses. (Table 1 from Appendix 1).

- The improvement of the access to active measures financed from the unemployment insurance budget; according to the data given by the National Agency for the Occupation of the Labor Force (ANOFM), the rate of activating young people in an active measure in the first 6 months of unemployment was 45.65% in 2003 (it refers to the percentage of young persons who became unemployed from January to June 2003 and who attended at least one active measure in the first 6 months of unemployment from the total of young unemployed).
- The quantum of the percentage of the expenses for the active measures for increasing the rate of work represented 13.9% from total expenses of the unemployment insurance budget in 2002, comparative to 12.1% in 2001 and 2.3% in 2000.

3. Effects and achievements of fighting unemployment policies in Romania

Unemployment among youth

As a direct result of the measures programmed for the period 2000-2005, the achievements obtained in the plan of preventing and fighting young unemployment and their active participation in the labor market make us optimistic about the future.

The change of tendency of the rate of activation of the young unemployed towards a growing level and the rate of unemployment towards a declining level (and the estimation anticipates that this tendency goes on) can sustain the idea that the tendency of reducing the structural unemployment among young people has a long-term manifestation.

If we look at the instruction level of the youth, a positive aspect is the fact that the percentage of those who graduate an university is growing. Of course, the quality of the Romanian education process and the fact that it should accommodate this to the changes in the labor market should be taken into account. Relating to this aspect, without any fundamental analysis of this field of interest, we remark that the education system in Romania (and not only in Romania) is generally stricter than the labor market.

This fact has many causes, one of them is the different logic of functioning of the two systems: the education system has the role of supplying qualified labor power and also the role of socialization and transmission of general knowledge, not very relevant for the employer; the labor market, especially the private one, has as main objective the maximization of the profit. This way it appears a different hierarchy of values, which disadvantages young, inexperienced persons.

In 2003 the rate of participation at the permanent education (types of courses and specializations expecting the compulsory or official education system) of the employed population, divided in age stages and environments was:

Age stages	Rate of participation		
	Total Urban	Rural	
Total	11.1	15.7	6.6
15-24 years	14.6	20.5	10.4
25-34 Years	14.5	19.0	8.8
35-49 Years	10.8	12.9	7.4
50-64 Years	8.0	14.7	4.0
65 years and over 1.9		1.8	1.9

The source: Characteristics of the Permanent Education – INS, 2 nd trimester of 2003

From the point of view of the participation to a permanent education form, the behavior of unemployed young people is totally different from the behaviors of young persons already employed. So the rate of participation of the BIM unemployed (the percentage of the BIM unemployed who attended at least one instruction form from the total BIM unemployed) at one of the permanent education forms was 11.8%. The BIM unemployed represented 2.6% from the 15 year –old population and over 15 years old who participated at least at one instruction form most of them being 15-24 years old (50.0%), males (59.6%) and living in urban environment (70.0%).

As a result of the implementation of the program of the National Agency for Employing the Labor Force – component part of the national programs for employing the labor power in 2002-2003, 123,388 young persons were employed comparative to 63,270 young persons who were programmed to be employed (the percentage of carrying out the program – 195.01%).

According to the Order of the Chairman of the National Agency for Employing the Labor Power, regarding the procedure of elaboration, the content and the monitoring of the individual plan for counseling, every person who is searching for a job receives a counseling plan when he is registered at ANOFM (National Agency for Employing the Labor Power).

As a result of the application of this measure in 2003, 179,612 individual plans for counseling the young unemployed registered until 12.31.2003 (100% of the young persons recently registered as unemployed) were prepared.

A lot of young people work without legal papers and they not benefit the employees' rights after they graduate.

The measures adopted by the Romanian government for reducing taxes, had as purpose the reducing of the underground economy and the decrease of the numbers of those who gain tax-free money. Of course, this measures implemented in 2005 did not show all its effects, but we can remark that it should have been adopted some measures for fighting tax evasion at the some time.

Vocational training programs for fighting unemployment among young people is necessary. This measure appears in the National Plan for Employing the Labor Power 2004 – 2005.

The brain migration is a problem remarked by all experts in the field of social development. The contribution of the persons with a superior level, of high-qualified young people is extremely important to the lasting development of a company (at economic, social, political level). The importance of helping them to find a suitable job and to involve them in entrepreneurial activities becomes obvious because these are efficient ways of keeping them in Romania.

The implementation of the Young Professionals (YPS) project, an important initiative in the reform process of the Romanian public administration, developed with the financing of the Europe Union. The main objective was the creation of a recruitment and selection, training, evaluation and employment system suitable to a fast-track model for quick development of the superior positions of public posts. Although the project has an important training part, its main purpose is to create a system and procedure for developing the career which can be adopted by the Romanian Government in the future, after the period of EU financing is over. The Young Professionals Project creates a group of young public servants for helping the strengthening and accelerating the modernization of the public sector, a secondary effect of this program being the keeping of valuable young persons for at least 5 years in Romania.

4. SWOT analysis. Conclusions and recommendations

The SWOT analysis of the policies of employing the labor force for young people.

Strengths:

- The reduction of the percentage of young people looking for their first job;
- The growth of active policies youth;
- The legislative measures of stimulating the employment of those who graduated a superior school level recently;
- Measures of stimulating the development of the entrepreneurial activity of young people;
- A good contribution of the non-governmental sector for supporting the integration of young people in the labor market.

Weaknesses

- The lack of some distinct and efficient policies for supporting the integration of young people from the rural environment in the labor market;
- A weak correlation of the labor market demands with the standards of academic and school training;
- A low interest in supporting the integration of young people with average school level in the labor market;
- Still weak results of some measures of stimulating the employment of young people (the weak receipt of the subsidized funds for the one – year payment of young people by the employers, for example);
- The lack of some distinct measures for supporting the development of the career of youth with great school achievements (winners of contests, leaders).

Opportunities

- ⇒ One of the best quality/ price ratio of the young labor power in the region;
- ⇒ The integration in the European Union, as a change of attracting new investments and creating new jobs;

- ⇒ The accordance of the Romanian educational system with the flow of the European educational reform (the Bologna Declaration), a change for a more intimate connection of it with the realities of the labor market;
- ⇒ The increase of the funds from the European Union starting with 2007 for the carrying on of some social projects (a chance on of the projects for supporting the integration of young people in the labor market).

Threats

- ◆ The low level of foreign investment – comparative to other countries like Romania – as a way of creating new jobs and opportunities of developing the career of young people;
- ◆ The amplification of the labor power migration, as a strategy of earning chosen by youth;
- ◆ Deficiencies in implementing the measures of stimulating the integration of young people in the labor market;
- ◆ The ineffective spending of the budgetary funds for supporting the integration of young people in the labor market under the administration of the public management.

The politics regarding the employment of young people had an obvious positive evolution in Romania. In the interpretation of our data we must take account of the fact general unemployment decreased constantly from 2000 until now (after it increased between 1996-2000), representing almost half of the percentage in 2000.

Governmental politics had a different application after 2000 regarding the problems of young people integration in the labor market. After 2000 the emphasis moved from the passive politics – prevalence before the year 2000 – to the active politics of supporting the integration of young people in the labor market.

The positive effects have been seen, the number of unemployed among young people being reduced at the same time with the reduction of long-lasting endemic unemployed, an extremely positive fact. Of course, there is still a high percentage of young people among the persons who are looking for a job, and this is why the efforts of stimulating and supporting the integration of young people in the labor market are still necessary.

Another fact to remark is that the passive policies know a diversification of their actions in time, an example for this being the subsidy from the budget of the payment of young people in the first year after their graduation.

We consider that a special attention should still be given to the young unemployed in the rural environment and to those with an average school level.

In the field of the coordination of the labor market demands with the training characteristics in the educational system, the progress was not spectacular. A certain rigidity of the educational system which generates the lock of accordance between its quality standards and the standards resulted from the changes in the labor market still exists. We should not forget that the area which offers most of jobs is the private market and not the public system. That is why the educational system in Romania should adapt itself more to the realities and the dynamic of the labor market.

In the area of supporting the entrepreneurial initiative of young people, a lot of measures have been initiated and a lot of programs of non-governmental organizations have been implemented, but their results were not very clear. However, the programs of stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit of young people should be continued.

A large proportion of the budgetary funds for active politics would better pass under the management of the non-governmental sector, which offers a higher quality standard and it does not exist the danger that the results of the actions be ruined by the deficiency of the public management functioning.

Appendix 1

Table 1 LD1. The structure of the expenses for the active measures of employing the labor power.

	The name of the active measure	Expenses in 2003 from the unemployment insurances budget - billion lei -	Expenses stipulated in 2004 from the unemployment insurances budget - billion lei -	Expenses stipulated in 2005 from the unemployment insurances budget - billion lei -	Expenses stipulated in 2006 from the unemployment insurances budget - billion lei -
1	Vocational training courses	64.63	138.8	165.9	171.8
2	The subsidy of jobs for employing those who graduate	354.9	661.9	870.5	954.7
3	Granting favorable credits for the creations of new jobs for the unemployed	1096	1500	1500	2100
4	The stimulation of the labor power mobility	42.9	67.2	96.1	108.8
5	The completing of the incomes for the employment of the unemployed before their unemployment period expires	277.7	340.2	460.3	527.9
6	The subsidy of	401.07	403.2	669.6	816

	jobs for employing persons older than 45 years or persons who support their families by themselves				
7	The subsidy of jobs for employing persons with handicap	3.8	52.08	65.1	87.7
8	The subsidy of the expenses for temporary employment of the labor power	745.01	802.6	886.4	1090
9	Consulting and assistance agencies for starting an independent activity	13.4	58.7	70.9	70.6
10	The prevention of the social exclusion of young people	15	193.2	217.5	315.1
	TOTAL	3169.09	4217.88	5002.3	6242.7

The source: The National Agency for Employing the Labor Power (for the year 2003 it is registered the data available at 02.24.2004; these data can be modified after the conclusion of the Balance sheet of the year 2003) – data from The National Plan of Employing the Labor Power, 2004-2005.

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1. Problems in Romanian Society

The problems of contemporary Romanian society are generated by the characteristics of past Romanian society, but a viable strategy does not imply solving the problems of the past first and only then beginning the construction of the future. It would probably be a waste of time. It would be much better to attempt to absorb the inherited problems in the very process of constructing our future society.

Therefore, the strategy of fighting poverty is a social construction program, and its philosophy 'is not that of catching up, but of constructing together' in order to build a European society.

After 1989, the 'Quality of Life Research Institute' (ICCV) was established, Institute that implemented in the beginning three programs for the poverty-stricken strata:

- the diagnosis of life quality- that was conducted from 1990 onwards, using specific instruments.
- the standard of living and the diagnosis of poverty.
- social policies.

2. On Poverty

Poverty is an older problem of the Romanian system and should not be regarded as one of the costs of development, but rather as a product of underdevelopment. Poverty is not an issue related to post 1989 Romania alone, because poverty developed as well in the communist era. In those times, state policies were primarily oriented to the development of society, while the eradication of the social phenomenon of poverty was neglected, as it was believed that a developed society would automatically eliminate poverty.

In the first years of the communist regime there was a certain level of prosperity, but in the last decade the population was undoubtedly characterized by a very high poverty level. Not even after the events in 1989 did state policies focus on poverty, their main objectives focused on development, more precisely on the privatization of state-owned enterprises and on the restructure of the economy.

In 2001, the 'Governmental Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Promotion Commission' was established. In the ensuing year, this body drafted the National Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Promotion Plan; this plan was intended as a support element, promoting planned social development programs in order to respond to existing problems.

When referring to disfavored strata, it is clear that the poorest are families with more than three children and youth, and if they come from the rural environment, the situation is even more dramatic. When compared to the urban environment, the rural is inferior in all aspects: education, human capital, income and living conditions.

In terms of historical regions, Moldova (the North-Eastern region of Romania) presents the highest level of poverty, while Transylvania (the North-West region of Romania) is somewhat wealthier.

When the standard of living is established on regional level, or on population segments, birth rate, child mortality rate, life expectancy at birth, employment rate, housing facilities, and the percentage of youth in the total population are all taken into account.

Poverty in rural areas can also be monitored with respect to the migration rate; there are villages that developed with the help of the capital brought back by migrants, who are mostly young people. However, not all Romanian villages that are a source of migration have the same profile of development indicators. It is possible to observe these indicators on regional level. (see Annex) Villages from Wallachia, Dobrudja and Oltenia have been grouped together, while villages in Transylvania, the Banat, and Maramures are a distinct group.

3. Youth in Anti-Poverty Policies

When referring to youth, one envisages a population that benefited somewhat from the opportunities of democratic society, but who also supported most of the costs of the transition.

Problems That Youth Faces From the Perspective of Poverty and Social Exclusion

1. Youth witness a poverty rate above the average value; the majority of young people lives with their parents (married youth is no exception) and are not financially independent.
2. The unemployment rate of youth is larger than the overall unemployment rate.
3. Many young people regard emigration as a viable solution.
4. The increase of the drug dependency rate as well as the decrease of the age young people becomes drug consumers.
5. The increasing number of youth criminal behavior and prostitution.
6. There is no policy stimulating young people to build a family. Difficulties in obtaining a stable job, in securing an income that would facilitate the acquisition of home actually hinder the establishment of families.
7. The degrading of the educational situation of youth especially in rural areas and disfavored strata.

The level of community development can be defined through its interest for the development of human and social capital. The development of the Romanian village depends on these aspects.

4. Characteristics of the Romanian Rural Environment

After 1990, rural agricultural private property was reestablished and people were determined to set up viable agricultural enterprises. The reality we observe today is different, as the standard of living of these persons did not improve. Actually, because of structural stagnation and of reduced agricultural production, the standard of living decreased.

The standard of living and the quality of life of a certain population is calculated with the aid of certain indicators: income, clothing, shelter, diet, integration, affirmation and education. The productivity of an agricultural household refers to its capacity of exploiting a certain area of land and raising a certain number of animals. Agriculture is a disfavored sector in rapport with others, although that with the increase in urban unemployment, we witness an urban-rural migration.

In villages adjacent to towns, the level of education or health-care services and of access to information is greater, and commuters contribute to the decrease of the number of households with exclusively agricultural revenues - households that prove to be the poorest.

5. Youth in Rural Areas

When speaking about youth, one must operate with criteria pertaining to the determination of the educational cycle, to qualification, to the set up of a family, etc. Youth seem to have a perception on the quality of life that is slightly better than that of other age groups, but this can be explained by their optimism.

Characteristics of rural youth:

- They are not integrated in the environment they live in (49.2% would leave the locality as soon as they would get the chance; 28.3% are undecided whether to leave or not) and perceive their living in the rural as being forced by the context.
- They have a critical attitude towards the socio-economic environment and the conditions it offers. The lack of facilities is a source of frustration for youth. When asked what should be done in order to convince them to remain in the rural environment, they listed: local jobs, owning a place to live, improving the leisure time activities offer, the existence of city-like facilities, and owning land.
- For most rural youth, employment opportunities are limited. 56.5% of them declared that they do not have the possibility of obtaining a job in their

village. They believe that the job offer in there is reduced and if not, it is not adequate to their training.

- Youth perceive the socio-economic environment as barring their initiatives, and they blame the system for not supporting them.

Surprisingly, young people could not mention at least one action implemented for them by authorities (81.5%). They also have a very low standard of living, 75.5% living with their original family, while only 24.5% are separated and living on their own. Most of the youth in rural areas possess no land.

6. Governmental policies

Under the provisions of Article 107 of the Romanian Constitution, the Romanian Government adopted:

-the National Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Promotion Plan (PNA-inc). This plan involved some strategic directions, some focusing on youth. It envisaged the ensuring of equal access to education for youth in disfavored areas, sustained support for the integration of youth in adulthood, support for the acquisition of housing. The correlated objectives included the following: the increase of young people's participation in economic life, the increase of the social participation of youth, the decrease of the impact of risk factors that lead to the social exclusion of youth.

-scholarship programs for rural students –initiate din order to stimulate youth's continuation of studies.

-Order no. 3699/2002 of the Ministry of Education and Research, regarding the facilitation of Roma youth's access to higher education.

7. SWOT Analysis and conclusion

Strengths

- There are measures supporting youth functioning in some areas and work is currently underway to expand them to national level.
- The development of some areas, following the influx of capital from those persons working abroad.
- The existence of well structured programs for some categories: Roma, women, children.

Weaknesses:

- -Lack of promotion –youth in rural areas are not aware of the existence of the programs.
- -Inefficient implementation of measures aimed at increasing the standard of living.
- -Youth cannot acquire a dwelling of their own, and even if there are special-purpose credits, they cannot access them due to low income.
- -High unemployment rate for youth.
- -The failure to raise the standard of living of youth.
- -Young people in rural areas cannot establish agricultural associations, as they do not own land.

Opportunities:

- ⇒ -NGO programs developing the entrepreneurial spirit of youth.
- ⇒ -The achievement of a comfort level similar to that of the city, by transforming some villages into towns.
- ⇒ -The development of rural tourism.
- ⇒ -The investments of people who migrated.
- ⇒ Ensuring a proper collaboration between local administration and the nongovernmental sector.

Conclusions

First of all, it should be mentioned that as a result of the activity of the NGO's, adequate legislative measures have been implemented. A legal basis for supporting youth should have been established, and the nongovernmental sector signaled this very well.

The minimal income law had positive effects, but also led to the inactivity of those benefiting from it.

The entrepreneurial spirit should be developed, especially in the rural environment, and not necessarily in the agricultural field.

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8. Annexes

-Category of Indicators	-Moldova	-Wallachia, Dobrudja and Oltenia	-Transylvania, the Banat, Maramures
-EDUCATION	--Relatively high education level in 1992. --Reduced ratio of high school graduates in 2002 --High ratio of profession school graduates	--High ratio of primary school graduates in 2002	--High education level in 1992. --Reduced ratio of high school graduates in 2002
-AGE	-High adult ratio, 30-59 years of age (2002)	-High adult ratio, 30-59 years of age (2002)	-High adult ratio, 30-59 years of age (2002)

-RELIGION AND ETHNIC GROUP	-High ratio of religious minorities. 1992	-High ratio of religious minorities. 1992	-High ratio of religious minorities. 1992
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Source : 'Sociologie romaneasca', Magazine, nr. 3/2004, article *Cultura si experienta de migratie in satele Romaniei*, pagina 185

Consumption Spending	Rural Families	Employed Families	Retired Families
Alimentary consumption and drinks, (including own production).	67,0	49,4	58,2
Clothing	11,9	17,3	8,6
Housing and furnishing	12,7	15,3	15,8
Health care	0,9	1	3,5
Transport and communication	2,9	6,9	5,9
Culture and education	2,1	5,3	4,6
Other personal spending	2,5	4,8	3,4

Source: *Anuarul statistic al Romaniei, 1991, pp.125*

Dimensions/Indicators	values	
	Minimal	Maximal
Health	Elderly	Youth
Personal security	Specialists	Farmers

Satisfaction with the political life	Urban	Rural
Satisfaction with interpersonal relations	Specialists	Farmers
Influence on national decisions	Urban	Rural
Accessibility of education	Rural	Specialists
Information	Farmers	Workers, Technicians, Employees

Source: MARGINEAN, I ; Balasa, A (cood) – « *Calitatea vietii in Romania* », ed. Expert, Bucuresti, 2002, pp 105



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Summary

1. General features
2. HIV SIDA in România
3. GOVERNAMENTAL MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, PREVENTING, AND FIGHTING HIV SIDA
4. Organizations and non-governmental programs
5. Cuantic indicators that can be identified Looking it the state of youngs health
6. SWOT Analysis
7. Conclusions
8. Bibliography

1. General features

One of the fundamental rights of human being is the title to health. One of the great performances of the past century, because of development of prevention programs and promotion of health education, was an extremely growth of life hope among populations from many states of the world.

Materials offered to us by the National Institute of Statistics and Computing Centre from Romania, Sanitary Statistics and Medical Research show us that the main causes of deceases are represented by malfunctions of:

- cardiac apparatus, (733, 06 deceases 1000 inhabitants), neoplasm(186, 86 deceases 1000 inhabitants);
- digestive system(69, 25 deceases 1000 inhabitants);
- breathing appliance(66, 4 deceases) for semester I, 200.

The majority of these affections are correlated to certain behaviourist factors of risks at the level of the population. For instance, the cardiac malfunctions can be inducted to young ages or become worse especially because of smoking, regime rich in fats, sedentariness or high obesity. Certain malign illnesses recognize important factors of associate risks: smoking is part of the cancer.

An alarming phenomenon for health has become the consumption of toxic substances (tobacco, alcohol, drugs) among the population from our country, and young people represent a significant number.

In the line of young people aged 10-24 years, car accidents represent the main causes of decease, and other kind of lesions and poisons, including suicide (668 decease from 1509 registered at national level in the first semester of 2001). Alcohol represents one of the factors of risk associated to violent and dangerous behaviour (DJ Hanson și RC Engs, 1992), and the cases of abusive consumption of acohol are thightly related to serious wounds, caused esspecially by car accidents. Another health problem cocerning this category of people is represented by the field of health of reproduction.

Romania has one of the greatest maternal decease rate in Europe; a big weight in this case is represented by maternal decease and miscarriages. Must underline, in this context, the importance of the tasks without intention, total preventibile otherwise through the use of the methods of modern contraceptive. These pregnancies, especially in the case of young people under 18 years, end, of habits, through miscarriages; some of them end by birth (the pregnancy, due to the age, presents an obstetrical risk breeded), the child result having on statistic scale, a greater social risk(including a risk of cancel).

Romania has also a great rate concerning cases of infections with sexual conduction which incidence, in the case of young people, is registered. From the data offered by Health Minister, the rate of syphilis among people has doubled since 1989 until 2000. In the last four years, the number of adults infected with HIV has tripled, but both Romanian specialists as well as the foreign ones consider that the real number of sero-positive adult persons is 5 to 10 times greater than the registered ones ¹.

2. HIV AIDS IN ROMANIA

Aids is a contagious disease given by the HIV virus also called the virus of human immunodeficiency which is transmitted through sexual contacts or through blood from sick or sere-positive persons.

HIV infection causes death of the person and the scientists have not a vaccine to prevent it.

Aids came to present importance beginning with the 80's and still represent a disease in expansion. At the end of 2002, there were already about 42 millions of persons, alive, infected or sick, in the world.

In Romania, there are more than half of Europe's sere-positive children. This dramatic situation is given mostly, by the unsafe sanitary system from the socialist period. Most of the children were infected in hospitals, some of them at their birth, in nurseries, through transfusions, vaccines etc. Children with HIV/AIDS at 30 September 2001:

- No. of children alive HIV/AIDS 7511
- Total No. of cases of AIDS at children 6216

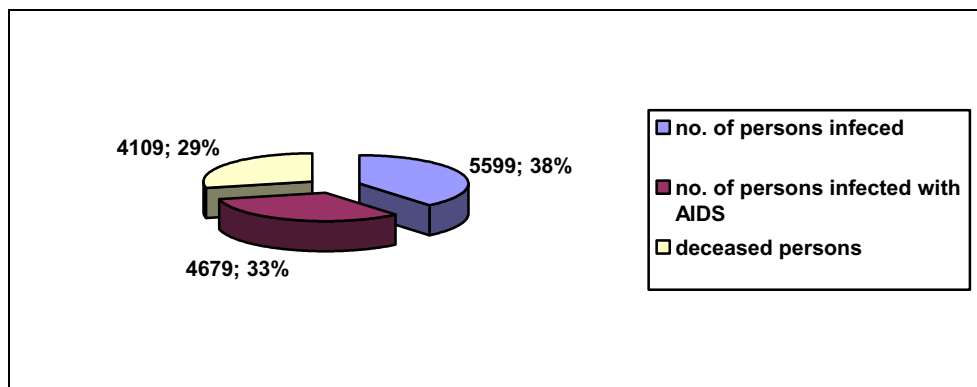
- Total No. of cases of HIV at children 4108
- Deceased children with AIDS 2753

1988's and 1989's generations present the highest risk of being infected, most of the HIV/AIDS cases at children, function of the year of birth, being registered in these years (1112 new cases in 1988 and 1151 new cases in 1989). Still, the situation has also maintained during the first years that followed 1989. It is supposed that the infection caused by the uncertainty of the medical treatment and the negligence of the medical personnel did not stop until the beginning of 1993. Even in this condition the no. of new paediatric cases maintained high, situation caused, in principle the multiplication of the cases with vertical transmission (from mother to child), in the last years.

Romania is considered a country with small relevance of HIV/AIDS, respectively the 0.04% and a small incidence. The epidemiological data shows that the principal way of transmission at adults is the sexual one and affects especially the youngsters aged 15 to 29 years.

The no. of new cases of infected adults has constantly increased in the last four years while the no. of new cases of infected children has decreased in the same period along with the exhaustion of the reservoir of infected persons, which has, as interval of birth, the period 1987-1991. In 2002 is registered even a maintenance of the number of new infected adults. However, new cases of infection by the vertical way appear and cases of infection among the users of intravenous drugs.

For the year 2003, the cumulated number registered of infected persons HIV/AIDS is 14387. From this number, the number of infected persons HIV/AIDS alive is 10278, from which with HIV infection 5599 and with AIDS disease, 4679.



The no. of those infected, aged fewer than 19, is with HIV – 3870 and AIDS disease – 3667. Under treatment is a total no. of 5547 persons, from which 4288 are, aged fewer than 19.

The analysis of the situation shows that the youngsters, in proportion over 80% have heard about HIV/AIDS³. Although the number of those who correctly identify the ways of transmission is increasing, the behaviour of the youngsters remains, mainly, at risk. The statement is sustained by the fact that overall the debut age of sexual life has decreased without being registered spectacular increase of the level of condoms' usage, neither at the first sexual contact, nor in the current sexual activity. The no. of sold condoms at national scale was permanently increasing, but it reached only 15 millions units in 2001. There are lacks of places in the country where you can buy condoms. In the same time, it has increased the no. of those who use drugs. In Bucharest, an important no. of those who use intravenous drugs is supposed to exist, especially among those aged 15 to 24. Up to this moment, among the drug users a small no. of HIV/AIDS cases has been found (from 392 tested cases in 2003, 4 turned out positive), there exists the danger of an increase in the no. of cases⁴.

Besides the serious problem of health and the low chances life sensitive diminish with which are confronted, the sero-positive children have problems of education or of promotion of social inclusion of the children social integration . They are among the categories most socially excluded, even merely through the fact they are excluded from a normal life. They are discriminated in scholar medium frequently just of the extensive family, neighbourhood, or community.

A fact shown to us by the research on this matter, tells us that more than half of the families choose not to say the truth about the complaint of the children. This majority of children come from families with modest incomes, many from average rural, without the possibility to sustain the treatment and to satisfy the specific needs. The spread of AIDS cases to children is tight associated with persistence of poverty and disorganization of the families in which they live, sources of exclusion afterwards. The enormous costs of the treatment cannot be covered or they create a serious financial situation to the families, therefore, support from the state or other organizations becomes essential. Merely 44 of the registered cases are under treatment (Ministry of Health and Family, 2002).

School, by the moral authority, can bring a significant contribution in spreading information on education on health, it has the ability and capacity to contain and address to a large no. of persons, during long periods.

The aim of "Education for health in the Romanian school" national program as an optional discipline is to enter Education for health in all instructional units. In the hope of creating responsible attitudes in the lines of pupils for their own health and for those around them, we suggest Education for health as an optional discipline and/or as the incorporate hours in another matter or as an extracurricular activity. Education for health, as an optional discipline contains themes on how to prevent transmitting AIDS, on the solidarity of the affected and infected with HIV/AIDS persons debated according to the law.

3. Governmental measures in the field of health and for preventing and fighting hiv/aids

From public view, the health, due to the individual social and demographic implications represents one of the most essential elements pointed by the politics and the governmental strategies from all around the world.

For health, Romania has allocated little sums of money, but in unbrokenly breeds in the last years. Beginning from 1998, through the system of assurances of health this finance bred comparative with the other years, reaching 4, 2 from PIB in 2001 against 2, 6 in 1997. The investments made this way systematically in this sector were a little less than the must.

In the aim of quality improvement medical assistance granted to pupils and students, concordantly with the process of the educational and institutional reform, The Ministry of Education elaborated a program of a managerial legislative measures and The Ministry of National Education and The Health Ministry emit the order which foresees the following facilitations:

- The pupils and the students, feather to the age of 26 years, benefit of ambulatory medical attendances and free hospitalization on all the school duration. The regime of gratuitousness is adverted to the medical attendance of urgency and to the medical jobs for the prevention and precocious disease finding that can affect the physics and mental development of the young
- The pupils and the student's benefit of all right of persons, respectively they entitle to their own choose in what concerns the doctor and the medical unit.
- The free access of the pupils and students in the sanitary units is secure, as much in the localities in which they study, in the localities of his residence in one in which they live temporarily. This foresee applied as much on the period studies, quotients and in vacant
- The pupils and the students approach the cabinets of homely planning, benefiting of: Gynaecological consultations, premarital advices, contraceptive treatments and consultants for young families.
- The pupils and the students benefit of medical attendances regenerative in a special unit, as the programs of established rehabilitation established by the doctor. Also, they are entitled to receive medical attendance and attendance to residence
- The pupils and the students benefit of transports with ambulances in the case of medical emergencies.

- The scholar inspectorates and the Universities solicit from The House of Health Insurances ending contracts frame, between these and sanitary units, carry to offer the jobs of health of good quality for all medical specialties. Finish of contracts is done especially with academic his clinical municipal hospitals.
- To the solicitation of the scholar Inspectorates and Universities, The Ministry of National Education does the necessary approaches to the Health Ministry for his establishment the redeployment of medical which cabinets grant the medical attendances of the general practice of the pupils and students. To these cabinets shall have the access except the pupils, the students, the didactic frames the administrative personnel of the unit.
- The Ministry of National Education, through scholar Inspectorates and Universities , shall involve from organizational viewpoint in applying the ministry's National Health Programs incorporate by Health in the European programs

The Supervision and control over HIV/AIDS infections is smaller at specialized institutions like:

- The Institute of infectious ilnesses "Prof. dr. Matei Balș" București
- Hospitales and clinics that are competent in taking care of HIV/AIDS infected persons
- Public heath district centres of Bucharest city
- Medical units belonging to ministries with their own health network

The methodology of monthly indemnity fee for proper food for adults and children infected with HIV/AIDS and control of using by the ones in law is approved through the order nr. 73 From 16 February 2004 out in "Monitorul Oficial."

The approval of the health subprograms and methodological norms for finances from the Ministry of Health and Family budget and from the Social Health Insurance Fund budget came in year 2002. According to order, no 267 from 3 October 2002 we have: subprogram – supervising and controlling HIV/AIDS infections, having as activity the identification of infected persons, persons who were eligible for antiretrovial treatment and coming across of HIV/AIDS infection in groups of risk, through the established criteria's by the National Committee of Anti-AIDS CNLAS fighting.

For a better supervision, control and prevention of infection with HIV/AIDS, through order no 285 from 21 March it is decided the foundation, organisation and function of a National Committee which has as main atributions:

- a) it analyses the causes and conditions which favours the cases of HIV/AIDS infections;
- b) it grounds, elaborates and suggests for approval to the Govern, the national strategz for supervising, controlling and preventing the cases of HIV/AIDS infections, following closely for its application.
- c) it advances suggestions concerning the modification and completing of law, as well as suggestions concerning the elaboration of new normative documents for supervising, controlling , preventing and reducing the social impact of the cases of HIV/AIDS infections.
- d) evaluates and suggests to the Government the Order from the funds of the state budget which are necessary for applying the national strategy in domain.
- e) follows that the conventions, treaties and international documents for which Romania takes part, are respected, concerning the rights of HIV/AIDS infected persons;
- f) gives assistance to the competent authorities for elaborating sectorial strategies and identifies the methods and practical meanings which can be used in the purpose of supervising, controlling, preventing and reducing the social impact of the cases of HIV/AIDS infections;
- g) periodically informs the Government and the competent authorities with regards to the activity and obtained results;
- h) suggests to the Government the adoption of measures which impose for supervising, controlling, preventing and reducing the social impact of the cases of HIV/AIDS infections;
- i) elaborates and publishes annually the report concerning the evolution of HIV/AIDS infection cases.

The committee accomplishes any kind of other attributions performing the purpose for which it was constituted, attributions established by normative documents or disposed by the Prime Minister.

For accomplishing it's attributions, the committee collaborates with ministries and specialized institutions of the central public administration with other authorities and public institutions, as well as interested non-governmental organizations.

For preventing the spread of AIDS malady and for protecting the infected persons with HIV or ill with AIDS, a law (no 584) was voted on 29 October (rule that will be approved through HG2108.11.2004); the law takes in consideration several measures:

- national programs of supervising, controlling, preventing and reducing the social impact of the cases of HIV/AIDS infections;

- ways of informing within all education units, that belong to the state or private;
- special social protection for removing discrimination;
- organizing a national committee for supervising, controlling, preventing and reducing the social impact of the cases of HIV/AIDS infections, as an inter-ministerial organism without judicial responsibility, under the authority of the Prime Minister with attributions of health insurance for population;
- assuring the necessary funds;
- the obligation of all ways of mass informing to promote, free of charge and quarterly, use of condoms, in order to prevent the HIV infection by sexual transmission;

For the ratification of the agreements between the Ministry of Health and Family and the Global Fund for AIDS Control; tuberculosis and malaria regarding the grant of two non-repayable credits for fighting against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, signed at Geneva, they adopt the emergency ordinance no 62 from 25 June 2003, which is approved through no422 law, from 20 October 2003.

The multinational strategy for supervising, controlling, preventing the cases of HIV/AIDS infections for 2004-2007 period; was approved by the government order no. 1342 from august 2004. starting with october 2002, in romania, has entered as applicable Law 584 concerning the measures of preventing the spreading of AIDS malady and measures of protection for persons infected with HIV or sick with AIDS, which are deffended by the following rights:

- the right to life
- the right to non-discrimination
- equality in front of the law
- liberty of movement
- the right to work
- the right to intimacy
- liberty of expression and oppinion as the right to recieve and disseminate information
- the right to get married and have a family
- the right to particpate at a social and cultural life.

HIV/SIDA is an illness for which the assured people benefit of ambulatory treatment of medicines offered without personal contribution, payed from The Social Health Insurances Fund, through order 1186/2000 (omsf 546 / 2002).

School has moral authority that can bring a significant contribution towards transmission of educative knowledge for health of the pupils, as well the ability and capacity of involving and addressing to a high percent of the population.

„Education for health” as an optional discipline, gathers themes focused on preventing AIDS transmission, of solidarity with affected and infected HIV/SIDA. The approach of the themes is according to chapters of legislation.

Organisations and non-governmental programs

The Romanian-USA parteneriat in the child protection domain in 2001-2005. The American government back-up financial this program, by USAID, the amount allocated is 15 mil USD. The American contractor of Child Net program is World Learning. The general objective of the programe is the sustainement of the reform of the child protections system from Romania. The “ChildNet” program operates, mainly with two big components: the financing program and the technical assistance and training program. This program about HIV infection has been about testing HIV children from the placement centers and the development of the capacity of the NonGovernment organisations which are active in the child protection domain.

The program “Combativity of HIV/AIDS: an comprehensive answer, coordonated, multisectorial in Romania”

The Romanian program financed by the Global Fund for combating of AIDS, tuberculose and malaria consists in projects of public institutions, NGO’s members of the National Commission for supervising, controlling and prevention of HIV infection cases. The program has started to go in July 2003 and it has a duration of 2 years. The ANPCA project has 2 components:

- trainings made by ARAS(Romanian Anti AIDS Organisation) and Save Children-2, in partnership with ANPCA.
- By developing services, a Day-Centre for AIDS children in Petrila, Hunedoara has been opened, having as beneficiaries 30 kids and their families.

The 2 foundations have organized information sessions for the HIV/AIDS problematics. A summer camp has been organized for 70 children infected with HIV/AIDS.

4. Nongovernment programs for preventing and combating HIV/AIDS

Permanent programs (ARAS -)

Preventing HIV/AIDS/ITS(Information/Education/Comunication Program) Helpline AIDS(free calls, non-stop)

- harm reduction (terain activities insight the injectables drugs users, persons who are selling comercial sex, streetchildren's, rome population, informing sessions by individuals/by group)
- information sessions in high-school, colleges,(for pupils, students, parents, professors, placement centres, day-centres for street childrens, hospitals, rural parts.; information sessions for the mainstream public
- peer-education-training of formatorsfrom equals: young people's, women's, streettchildren's or institutionalised
- Informing/education by nonconventional methods (DramaProject-theatre education; concerts, media campains, website, remembers by quilts (number project, the light canddle day)
- Summer campains by the beachside of the Black Sea and in mountain resorts frecvented by young people.
- Social marketing campains (condoms distribution and informative materials, supplyng with condoms of the hard to reach areas or spaces frecvented by young's.
- Materials edited for information/education for all kind of target groups: gimnasium pupils, high-school students, parents of the HIV+, volunteers
- Centres for counseling and testing(Bucharest – 2 centres, Iasi, Constanta), where the public has pre – and post-test counseling and it is referred to other medical services; the test is free and anonimusus by pay and confidential.

2. Social asistance of the HIV/AIDS persons and their families

- Psycho-social assistance for HIV/AIDS persons and their families(including helpy money)
- supports groups for HIV/AIDS persons
- advoccacy and technical assistance for associations formed by persons affected by HIV

- sensibilisation of the community about the rights and special needs of the HIV/AIDS persons
- familial style house for the institutionalized childrens
- stomatological cabinet which is auto financed, opened to the large masses(including HIV/AIDS persons)

3. The fight for Human Rights (persons with HIV, sexual minorities, etc)

The Foundation Romanian Angel Appeal has been founded in 1990 in London and Los Angeles and registered in Romania in 1991. By its projects, RAA acts for improving medical, social and psychological assistance for persons in difficulty, and in special for children's and young's affected by HIV/AIDS, by performing education and prevention campaigns.

Developed project:

Mobile unit – National prevention campaigns

Beneficiary :* over 60.000 young peoples have beneficiated directly or indirectly (by adjacent activities) in these campaigns.

Activities

The mobile unit Team, trained in HIV/AIDS domain, sustained educational sessions and counseling dedicated to the teen-agers in high schools, clubs, disco's and Internet cafe's. Also have been distributed educative materials, conceived for various knowledge levels, and condoms. In addition, educative sessions, followed by prize questions problems daily organized on local radio stations, in 21 towns (Craiova, Petrosani, Resita, Timisoara, Medias, Targu Mures, Brasov, Bacau, Piatra Neamt, Suceava, Botosani, Iasi, Focsani, Constanta, Galati, Braila, Slobozia, Targoviste, Ploiesti, Giurgiu and București). In which young peoples are vulnerables about adopting risky comportament which may lead to infection with HIV.

Projects in development

1. The right to Adolescence (Healthy education for teen-agers affected by HIV/AIDS and their families) The project "The right to teen-ager", initiated in 2001, consists in facilitate communications of the diagnostic to the children / teen-agers by their parents, for creating the premise of implication in decisions for their life and in purpose of improving the answer at the treatment ad their orientation in life. In this way, the project offers support for conciliating both the parent and the children before, during and after the communication of the diagnostic, the observation of the children both psychological and medical, but also the education

referring to hygiene norms which must be obey and sexual life. The project is sustained by multidiscipline teams (social assistants, psychologist, medics, medical assistants), by a series of informative materials, courses for training the personal from the project and access to last-hour information, available on the Internet and distributed in the network of day sections : "Sun Flower- Smile".

The children's and young peoples involved in the project have the possibility to go in camps, trips for a week. During 2002-2004 have been organized 10 camps, at which have attended 297 children's and young's.

2. The mobile unit –stomatological dermatological assistance for children's infected HIV from Romania

Started in July 2000, the Mobile Unit Project is a initiative of Romanian Foundation Angel Apeal wich supplements stomatological and dermatological /small chirurgy services for HIV infected patients, especially children's and young's which are being submitted to an discriminatory treatment or are even refused by the medical personal locally, or are living in remote areas, in which are not supplied medical services. Also the medical personal locally is informed and educated about the prevention of transmitting HIV in medical practice, for reducing the phenomenon of refusing of medical act.

Evaluating the accessibility at medical services of patients infected with HIV have reiterated the fact that this are refused by stomatolog's and dermatolog's, the refuse being motivated by the lack of protection materials, the inexistence of a observing and administration of prophylactic treatment in the case of professional accident, baut an barrier of mentality generated usually by a insufficient knowledge of the aspects of the HIV infection. Encouraging and supporting the local initiative in offering the medical services, in the project was created a network of 80 stomatolog's and dermatolog's medics, which are offering services at a local level for the HIV patients. For now, this services are offered in the frame of Mobile Unit, but many doctors continues to offer services to the seropozitives patients in their own cabinets.

The combating of social exclusion of young people's affected by hiv/aids (seypa) is a project taking place in 5 countries which has as purpose the consultation of the young's about the relevant problems for them, but also their implication in finding of solutions to be promoted both in project's network and outside it. The project is initiated by the European Forum on HIV/AIDS, Children, Young People and Families, is coordonated by the Romanian Foundation Angel Apeal and financed by GlaxoSmithKline.

The project has started in January 2003, will last 2 years and wil consult as many young's form Romania, Rusia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, by the 5 organization

which are partners in project, identifying the modalities of reduction of social exclusion for young's affected by HIV/AIDS. The results of this consultation will be used for developing the toolkits for educating organisation and persons about the relevant problems and the optimal modalities to address these problems.

Social responsibility in mass-media

For growing the quality of media products by themes referring HIV/AIDS, the project lasting a year (August 2004-August 2005) will develop training activities (12 sessions in 12 different locations) for 120 journalists who are working in media organizations national or local (TV, radio, and press). Organizer: Romanian Angel Appeal.

www.copii.ro

¹ www.arasnet.ro

¹ www.raa.ro

¹ www.raa.ro

5. FUNNY LEARNINGⁱ

The Funny Learning project has started in May 2004 and will end in April 2005 and it consists of a multimedia educational product which is accessible on-line to www.5pm.ro but also on CD (10,000 copies). 5PM is a virtual town in which young people can get in contact with 12 characters, within interactive scenes that offer basic information about HIV/AIDS, sexual transmitting infections (STI), contraceptive methods, prevention of drugs consumption, reducing social exclusion of persons infected with HIV/AIDS. The interactive informational scenes of 5PM site are completed with six games that have subjects related to HIV/AIDS, STI, drugs abuse, contraceptive methods, etc. For the site's visitors, one of the most attractive sections is the one in which prizes are offered – Playground.

The youngsters can register on www.5pm.ro site after they play all six games (on-line/CD), to register on the weekly contests and to win attractive prizes.

"Alături de voi" association is a non-governmental organisation, founded in March 2002 by Holt International Children's Services with financing from USAID.

The national bureau of the association is in Iasi, with departments in Constanta and Tg. Mures. The association's purpose is the improvement of life quality for persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, from Romania. "Alături de voi" association is functioning as a Resource Center in the area of HIV/AIDS, having as strategic objectives:

- to directly respond to the needs of infected and affected persons;
- to contribute to prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission in the community;
- to sustain the managerial development of involved actors for HIV/AIDS domain.

"Alaturi de voi" Romania association is developing programs at local and national level, programs that offer the following services:

- pre and post HIV test counseling ;
- information and support for obtaining legal rights;
- training for HIV/AIDS domain;
- technical and financial assistance for founding associations;

The society for Sexual Contraceptive Education is a non-governmental organisation, romanian apolitic, that contributes to the improvement of the individual state of health through education and distribution of complex integrated and of quality services, in the domain of human being health reproducing.

The association is debating for the promotion and respect of free access of every person, on the ground of personal informal decisions, to education for health and services for health reproduction.

Launched in the spring of 2001, the "All about HIV/AIDS" project is the first in Romania which uses the internet for informing and counseling the youngsters about the health of reproduction domain; including through on-line sessions, in real time, with full respecting of confidentiality. Considered as an example of inovative utilisation of new technologies of information in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the project will be extended by PNUD also in other countries of the region, on the ground of the romanian experience.

The www.sexdex.ro web pag, is one of the most popular among teenagers with about 300.000 visitors since launch. Accessing in an interactive manner this page, many teenagers have understood that in sexual life using the condom for protection against transmissible illnesses is not enough, but a healthy behaviour for approaching couple relations is necessary.

A multimedia educational CD, <<Dragoste si Sex – Adevar si Provocare>> was launched within this program, it offers all the necessary information for a healthy attitude towards sexuality, preventing through this the expansion of HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitting diseases.

Developping services which address to children of the streets, and reducing HIV/AIDS infection for them, in the nongovernmental sector is a fact less known. Neither one of the children has adequate knowledge about HIV virus and AIDS.

Since April 2001 the National Union of Affected HIV/AIDS Persons Organisation has elaborated and developed with UNICEF support, an informational system of monitoring the cases of HIV/AIDS persons infected/affected break of rights, and reached the following conclusions:

- a high number of children infected with HIV need a psycho-social support adapted to the social vulnerability grade;
- the persons in the rural environment were shown as the most affected as much as it concerned the break of rights to confidentiality, mentality and discriminatory attitudes, limited access to information related to the evolution of the legislative frame in the HIV/AIDS sector;
- the fear disrespecting diagnosis' confidentiality, the discriminatory social context leads to the isolation of persons with HIV/AIDS, the growth of their vulnerability to their illness. The persons that live with this fear do not access the health services and do not benefit of facilities of special social protection;
- until 2003, the children infected with HIV or AIDS were framed, with no exception, with first level of deficiency, fact that permitted them to access different rights of social protection. Monitoring permitted the identification of several cases of children enframed with second level of deficiency, children that lost, because of this, multiple facilities.

Over 80% of the officialy registered cases of children infected with HIV/AIDS, in Romania, have been a result of a deficient sanitarian service, an average of age is 14-16 years old, that means that they will need to prepare themselves for the level of special protection for 2-3 years, they will be beneficiaries of social professional integration for this category with special needs and very vulnerable to social environment.

5. Cuantic Indicators that were identified concerning the state of health of young people .

A. The Quality of the Sanitarrian System: *Material Resources, Human And Activity*

		1999	2000	2001
1	Number of hospitals	425	439	442

2	Beds in the hospitals(thousands)	164	166	168
3	Number of inhabitants per doctor (excluding dentists)	523	529	529
4	Number of inhabitants per dentist	4269	4502	2577
5	Number of inhabitants per farmacist	1405 4	1412 8	3070
6	Number of inhabitants per a medium sanitarian representative	197	202	187
7	Medium sanitarian personnel per a doctor(including dentists)	2,4	2,4	2,17

Source: CCSSDM and INSSE

B. Number of hospitals, policlinics and dispensary for studentstudents, in 1998-2001 period

	1998	2000	2001
Student Hospital, total /country	2	2	2
Student Policlinics, total /country	4	4	4
Student Dispensary, total /country	48	25	*
Scholar Dispensary, total /country	577	504	*

* - were transformed in scholar/ student cabinets

Source: CCSSDM

OBS: although the number of students is increasing, the number of institutions that offer assistance or medical care is decreasing.

Illnesses among young people

C. TBC

New cases of tuberculosa in România	1995	2000	2001
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Total / country	21538	23673	30017
Of which: 15-29 years old	6285	6206	6848
% 15-29 years / all cases	29,18	26,21	22,81

Source: The Sanitarian Statistic Annuary from 2001

D. Illnesses with sexual transmission

Registered cases of veneric illnesses for young people aged 15-29 years	1998	1999	2000	2001
Syphilis	4894	5071	6053	7240
Gonoree	2888	2909	3585	3270

Source: CCSSDM

New Cases of Syphilis and Gonoree in Romania 2001		15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	Total youngsters	15-29 years as% of total /country
Syphilis	Total	4582	2264	2200	7046	57,7
	Of which – urban	274	2400	4000	4474	50,0
	Of which – masculin	245	4044	240	2709	20,0
	Of which – feminin	550	1750	1444	2744	50,0
Gonoree	Total	702	4604	270	2270	72,2
	Of which – urban	540	1152	562	2254	72,8
	Of – masculin	252	440	244	1016	70,0
	Of – feminin	530	1247	742	2509	72,2

Source :CCSSDM

E. SIDA:

AIDS CASES

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total country of which	4446	5147	5730	6089	6720
15-29 years of which	168	211	268	306	408

Source: Statistic Annuary of Romania,

F. ABORTIONS

Abortions In 1996-2001 Period

Year	Total 15-49 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29years
1996	455340	35814	113552	135826
1998	270930	20886	66133	74620
2000	257267	19549	61127	70083
2001	253445	20008	61622	68528

Sursa: INSSE- Anuarul Statistic al României, 2003,

G. general mortality (deceased / 1.000 inhabitants).

Mortality on groups of age in Romania	1990	1998	2001
Total country of which:	1 0 , 6	1 2	1 1 , 6
- 15-19 years	0 , 7	0 , 6	0 , 5
- 20-24 years	1	0 , 8	0 , 7
- 25-29 years	1 , 3	1 , 1	0 , 9

Source:CCSSDM

6. SWOT Analysis:**Strong points:**

- optimistic perception of youngsters for their own state of health
- developing vaccine campaigns;
- initializing programs of familial planning;
- the existence of some free of charge facilities from the medical assistance domain.

Weak points:

- weak quality of medical services;
- small number of sanitarian services offered for the youngsters;
- high number of sexual transmitting illnesses among youngsters;
- high rate of abortion among young girls;
- low rate of modern contraceptive utilisation;
- illnesses which have high rate among young people(AIDS, TBC, BTS);
- lack of organizing the ambulatory system;
- insufficient monitoring of children's health;
- big number of digestive and breathing illnesses(due to unfit life conditions and lack of hygiene).

Threats:

- negative consequences for long term on biological plan, as a follow up of getting illnesses at young ages;
- negative consequences on social plan(isolation, incapacity to work);
- social polarization of sanitarrian services.

Opportunities:

- growing the number of sanitarrian assistance for young people;
- improving the sanitarrian assistance services for young people;
- introducing and promoting the national programs of education for health;
- developing campaigns of information among young people concerning sexual transmissible diseases;
- accomplishing some interventions at communitarian level, both at the level of suppliers and beneficiaries;
- developing programs of informing mostly in the rural;
-

7. CONCLUSIONS

in the period 2000-2003 important progress was made in the HIV/AIDS domain, in the prior areas defined by the Strategy for that period. By 2001 HIV/AIDS was declared a public health priority and in the same year The National Plan of Universal Access to Treatment and Care for HIV/AIDS was launched. The plan allowed about 8.000 patients suffering from HIV/AIDS to start treatment by the end of 2003, by which 5.300 already benefited of antiretroviral treatment. All the costs for this program were sustained from public funds, in the condition of free access, regardless to the patient's status. The budgetary effort was raised from 3 million US dollars in 1999 to over 28 million US dollars in 2003. The program also has an important component of participation from the private sector. Six of the most important pharmaceutical companies which produce antiretroviral medication have accepted, with the facilitation of the United Nations, to grant Romania discounts and donations in medication for sustaining the program.

In the period 2000-2003 marked an extension of the partnership, coverage, frequency and consistency of national campaigns for preventing HIV/AIDS. Each year the campaigns have grown in quality and approached important themes about preventing HIV/ITS, about promoting the rights of the infected persons and about reducing the stigmatization and discrimination. The campaigns have had an important mass-media component with free messages

broadcasted in the prime-time commercial area, which reached millions of people, especially youngsters.

The Ministry of Education and Research had launched, by the end of 2002, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and under the high patronage of the prime-minister, the program "Education for Health in Romanian School". Through this program, the basis of including classes for Health in the teaching program for the primary cycle and for high schools was built, with various themes, including the preventing of HIV and ITS, family planning and preventing the use of illegal substances. The non-governmental sector, especially with international help, had started pilot programs for preventing HIV/AIDS along sexual workers, drug abusers, homosexuals and from ethnics. The projects have proven innovative approaches in the work of preventing with vulnerable groups and allowed learning of new important lessons in the perspective of extending these intervention nation-wide.

The period 2000-2003 has also marked the forming and the maturing of the associations of persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, reunited in 2000 under the umbrella of the National Union of Organizations of Persons Affected by HIV/AIDS (UNOPA). The Union shortly became an important partner in the struggle for respecting the rights of the seropositive persons and in the elaboration of nation-wide politics. UNOPA occupies in present one of the two seats of vice president at the National Committee.

In the period 2000-2003 a significant growth has been recorded in the number of persons which need care and treatment for HIV/AIDS. By the end of 2003 a cumulative number of HIV/AIDS cases of 14.387 are recorded, of which 10.278 cases are alive. There are 5.547 cases in treatment, of which 4.288 are less then 19 years old. It is appreciated that all HIV/AIDS cases in need of treatment (accordingly to the selection criterion) have access to treatment. The Ministry of Health and the CNAS have allotted for the year 2004, 984 billions ROL for the prevention and treatment program, to which 2,3 millions USD is added from the Global Fund for acquisitioning tests for monitoring the specific therapy.

The guarantee of monitoring tests of the treatment and endurance has improved in the past 2 years, and by the allocated resources in the Global Fund project it is hoped to solve this problem. Most of the patients are multiexperienced in the ARV treatment and are presently treated with complex schemes which contain very expensive medicine.

The capacity of the system to assure palliative and final treatments is much reduced.

The current status:

In this moment the entire social assistance system in Romania is in the process of reform and modernization, the priority being decentralization and the role of the local community. The transition process has generated difficulties, on

the local level, in assuring financial resources and in sustaining the quality of service. The organizations reunited in UNOPA have reported problems due to non-observance of the legislation and even started a campaign to bring these cases to justice. The legislative frame is still insufficiently developed and the ability of the local authorities to conceive and implement efficient social interventions is limited.

Children and adults infected with HIV may benefit, in function of medical evaluation, of framing in a degree of handicap, which assures access to the facilities foreseen by the national legislation for persons with disabilities. These facilities may include the payment of a personal assistant, free public and train transport, facilities for obtaining social rights, lower prices for some public utilities. The Ministry of Work, Social Solidarity and Family also grants a daily ration of food for seropositive children, as well as an indemnisation of food for all persons living with HIV/AIDS. The bound between social and medical has started to improve with the growth of the number of Day Clinics, which carry out this double role, and with the total takeover by the public sector. Their takeover by the public system has not always meant keeping the quality of the social service.

Most of the families with seropositive children and many of the adults live at the limit of poverty, about 83% by some studies.

The access to education for seropositive children, although it improved in the past years, is still limited by the opposition of some local communities where the education and social integration programs have not been applied yet. Most of the infected children are now teenagers and start having a sexual life. Most of the times they don't know their diagnose. The situation of institutionalized children has improved with the reform of the child protection system. The majority of seropositive children in the public child protection system is protected in little homes of familial type. Alternative services were developed: day centers, counseling centers and support for children and parents, professional maternal assistance, maternal centers. Half of the seropositive abandoned or orphan children are protected in services belonging to non-governmental organizations which deal with HIV/AIDS children.

With all this, a part of the seropositive abandoned or orphan children are still not taken care of in large scale residential units and some of them are still abandoned in hospitals.

The supervision of the HIV/AIDS evolution and of the associated risk factors. Presently in Romania there exists a national network of supervising transmissible diseases, including the HIV/AIDS infection, coordinated by the Ministry of Health. The supervision is realized through District Public Health Directions and through some National Institutes subordinated to the Ministry of Health. In the case of HIV/AIDS infection and the associated risk factors we can talk about a passive supervision with low elements of active supervision or risk behavior supervision, included in the so-called second generation supervision. Even though the information is collected at a central level, in most of the cases

the capacity of orientating the programs and interventions on the base of this information is missing. In the case of transmissible diseases, OMS and other international organizations have recommended for some time the creation of an unique integrated system of supervising and report.

For the future, the government has a national strategy for supervising, controlling and preventing the cases of infection with HIV/AIDS in the period 2004-2007, approved by the decision no. 1342/2004.

Although changes have been made, by taking a glance to the quantifiable indexes we can observe, from the health point of view, the indexes don't have positive drops. As in other domains there are, at a theoretical level, strategies and programs for the health area which sadly aren't quantified in positive results for the youth sector.

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1. General Facts
2. Governmental Projects and Programs
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1. General Facts

The word 'environment' is a fundamental and encompassing notion that depicts both organic and inorganic elements, basically everything that surrounds human beings. Taking into consideration, the central position occupied by humans in their environment, there can be no talk of environment without reference to human beings, from the point of view of their natural interests¹.

Environmental policies are called upon in order to establish the strategies, methods and means that are to be applied in national actions in order to prevent and remedy the effects of pollution, in order to better environmental conditions. Therefore, environmental policies are defined in tight connection with national activities or international collaborations, in a field or another, regarding the protection of the environment. This implies an evaluation of the real condition of the environment on national, regional and global scale, which in turn requires a policy of realistic observation of reality, a real examination of the negative influences that affect the quality of the environment, an institutionalized implementation of national and international measures, the means that states can rely upon in order to protect the environment and especially of those means that may contribute to the betterment of the environmental conditions.

An environmental policy must include a system of sanctions, both pecuniary and liberty restraining and must be based on ascertaining the spatial and temporal priorities of ecological measures.

Environmental policies pursue the following objectives: the protection of the environment; the improvement of its quality; the protection of public health;

the prudent and rational use of natural resources; the promotion of international measures regarding regional or global environmental issues. The instruments to be used are as follows: legislative norms, especially those directives establishing environment quality standards, norms that apply to industrial production or to various products; ecologic action programs; financial aid programs.

In Romania, during the past two decades, environmental policies and youth environmental education policies have been granted relatively little attention by post-communist governments. This may seem normal in a country involved in transition from communism to capitalism, that has had and still has to solve numerous other problems, that are not necessarily more important, but rather have visible short term or medium term effects.

The results of this ignorance, can be grasped from a declaration of a Romanian environmental NGO, an organization that draws our attention to the vital importance of having an environmental education, not only, but primarily for the young. This is what the association *Dianthus*, stated in a material published on its website:

'Although we have initiated many ecologic actions, actions consisting of gathering waste from certain areas, we consider that the effort of our members to have been in vain. The population (at least in our country) lacks ecological education. We cannot expect school or university students to respect and protect the environment as long as their parents do not educate them in this respect. And because parents have not been educated in this respect, they cannot educate their children. Therefore, a real ecologic program should start in kindergartens and elementary schools, so that an entire generation would grow up respecting common sense environmental norms, and so we should have a population with a proper ecologic spirit in 10-20 years. We consider cleaning actions to be short-lived and pointless².'

Therefore, a real ecologic program, *Dianthus* believes, must begin with the foundation of a rigorous ecologic education, in order to induce Romanian youth an environmental spirit, as part of their civic spirit.

In the presentation of a report that is currently being developed, its coordinators claim that on the formal level in schools, ecologic education is carried out during natural science classes (physics, chemistry, biology) and during geography classes. As a field *per-se*, ecology exists only in the 8th grade, as an optional class and in some specialized high schools in the 10-12th grades³. Elements of environmental education are present in civic education classes, compulsory for all primary school students.

Still, this situation is a progress, compared to the past years, not to mention the communist period. The study of geography for example, has evolved from the descriptivist type to 'a learning process that encourages the understanding of the relevance of geography to the children's daily life. It is also

desired to stimulate their interest to acquire the knowledge by their own means, to investigate and understand geographic facts, as well as the importance of protecting an environment favorable to a healthy and balanced life⁴.

Legitimate questions could be raised on the training of those persons teaching ecology or notions of ecology. In this respect, Romania has some deficiencies, meaning that most such instructors are specialists in biology or geography. However, this should be remedied in the near future, taking into account the increasing number of higher education institutions accredited to carry out specializations such as ecology or environment protection. Currently, there are 25 Universities accredited to carry out ecology-related specializations.

Therefore, the educational curriculum, endows environmental education with a somewhat important role. However, there still is a stringent need for projects that would deal with the informal side of education in order to complete young people's ecological education. Here, a very large number of NGO's take to the stand. They are not necessarily youth NGO's, but NGO's that develop informative or ecologic education projects for youth. The government is as well involved in developing similar programs.

2. Governmental Projects and Programs

The environmental policy is composed by a series of programs, some initiated by the Government. It is the Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection that seems to take the central role in implementing these programs. An example of such a program would be "România Curată" ('Clean Romania'), launched in April 2002. The program underlines the efforts undertaken in order to better the state of the environment and integrate on national scale the principles of Communitarian environmental policies. It is important to observe that "România Curată" is a national initiative and strategy aimed not only at assuring environmental protection and natural resources conservation, but also at 'increasing the level of education and consciousness of the population with respect to the attainment of these objectives. The program has three major chapters, entitled 'Where are we?' 'What is to be done?' 'How to do it?' and is intent on concisely answering these questions, by offering concrete solutions for the protection of the environment.

Thus, its objectives are the ensuing:

- to ensure the protection and conservation of the natural environment and of the environment built according to the demands of durable development;
- to ensure an integrated waste management;
- to enhance the level of ecological education and consciousness of the population.

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This program was developed by means of public-private partnership and of collaboration with local authorities and civil society. More precisely, the partners were ministries, higher education institutions, and non-governmental environmental or youth organizations. This demonstrates the desire to involve youth in ecological issues and that youth are aware of the role the environment has in our life and of the importance of its preservation.

“România Curată” proposes a series of guidelines of action, some of which target youth:

- the creation of educational programs for all age groups (kindergarten, school, university);
- the involvement of youth in concrete cleaning actions;
- the set-up of national and regional partnerships with environmental NGO's;
- the promotion of environmental education programs through the mass-media (focused on the reduction of running water misuse, the selective collection of waste; the protection of green spaces, etc.)

Another part of the program would be represented by the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Research together with the National Agency of School Holyday Camps and the Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection, aimed at providing ecologic education through a system of summer camps.

“România Curată” also included various actions such as⁵:

- the editing of ecologic education brochures for children and youth.
- the organization of cleaning actions in school areas, in parks or public gardens.
- the organization in the frame of extracurricular activities of ecologic prize contests, school holiday camps or other leisure activities with environmental theme.
- the initiation of a National Program for Ecologic Education, by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection together with two NGO's.
- the publication in school student-edited periodicals, of ecologic and environmental articles, that present the state of the environment in the respective county that promote the environmental activities realized by school students, as well as the negative aspects of not respecting environmental norms.

Another example is that of an information and education campaign, developed by the local administration and the Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment Bucharest. The project – ‘Take a Step With Me Towards a Green Capital’- had the objective of informing youth in environment related

issues and of promoting the concept of ecologic education. The participants and guests watched a video presentation of a waste dump, built after a German model according to European norms. Afterwards, school students crafted toys and other objects out of recyclable waste⁶.

During the past years, environmental policies in Romania evolved and this is partially due to the efforts undertaken in the course of the process of integration in the European Union, who imposes high standards in what environment protection is concerned. Since integration negotiations began in 2000, the environmental policy of Romania was developed according to the strategy elaborated by the E.U. Commission for candidate states in *Agenda 2000*. The priorities pointed out by the Commission for candidate states focus on air and water pollution and waste management.

The Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection released a *Position Document* regarding Chapter 22 – The Environment, document approved by the Government in October 2001 and forwarded to the Intergovernmental Conference on Accession to the E.U. This document encompasses Romania's commitments regarding the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* about the environment.

In 2002, The Commission of the E.U. elaborated a special document in order to aid Romania and Bulgaria in their efforts to adhere to the E.U. in 2007 and to supplement the financial assistance. *The Road Map for Romania* is focused mainly on administrative and juridical aspects, as well as on economic reform. Environmental issues in the document regard the development⁷ of implementation capacities for the environmental legislation, as well as the development of inter-ministry coordination in environment-related issues to the end of promoting a durable development and of transforming the environmental policy in a transversal one. The *Road Map* offers mid and long term objectives that correspond to specific problems. The mid-term problems identified are the ensuing:

- the realization of a general evaluation for the identification of existing needs;
- the development of implementation plans together with financing strategies;
- the improvement of the administrative capacity to implement the *acquis* by forming adequate personnel at central, regional and local level;
- the preparation of the environment legislation by consulting the interested parties and carefully assessing the implementation costs;
- the adoption of a horizontal legislation for a better evaluation of the impact on the environment and for better access to information;
- the strengthening of the mechanism and of the structures involved in implementing environment issues in other policies.

The long-term issues considered by *The Road Map* are focused on the continuation of the adoption of communitarian legislation, the implementation of

existing norms, and on the strengthening of the administrative structure required by the full implementation of the *acquis* on environment.

In 2004, Romania issued the *Complementary Position Document* for Chapter 22- The Environment, thus closing the negotiation for this chapter. Romania accepted to apply the *acquis* valid on June 30th 2004, with the exception of 11 acts, for which a transition period varying between 1 and 12 years was requested. These transition periods were requested for communitarian norms regulating air quality, waste management, water quality and industrial pollution control.

The legal basis of the Romanian environmental policy is represented mainly by the implementation of the environment *acquis*, which is the horizontal and sectional legislation regulating the environmental policy of the European Union.

The sectional environment *acquis* is structured on the subsequent fields: air quality, waste management, water quality, nature protection, industrial pollution control and risk management, chemical substances and genetically modified organisms, sound pollution, civil protection, nuclear security and radiation protection.

3. Non-Governmental Projects and Programs

There is a range variety of actions carried out by non-governmental organizations. For example, a political party's youth organization, together with a school students' club organized in 2002 in the Iasi an event celebrating 'Teenagers' day'. It was an action intent on cleaning the plateau of Repedea hill. The young men and women participating in the action managed to collect 30 bags of waste, garbage that had been left on the plateau by people from Iasi who went picnicking during the weekends. The action was also supposed to draw the attention of local authorities and public opinion on the importance of maintaining the natural reservation of Repedea.

Another example is that of a few members from a rock-climbing club, who decided that they should clean a clearing in the Carpathian Mountains. The ten young men and women declared themselves to be extremely satisfied by the collaboration with the local Forester Department, who provided all necessary materials⁸. The same club, Roclimbing, together with the students' association ASCOR, carried out other such actions in the Rarau mountains, with the financial support of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, through the Iasi County Directorate for Sports⁹.

Another clean-up action took place in 2003 in a park from the city of Pitesti, and was organized by a student's association, The Student's Union of Romania, with the support of the National Authority for Youth (the governmental

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organization –similar to a Ministry- that is currently dealing with youth-related issues) through its Agency for the Support of Students. The action was part of a larger program organized by students and for the students, called Unifest¹⁰.

Similarly, another youth initiative was the cleaning of the Rarau massive, carried out by the Ecoextrem-Bucovina, an association of high school students from 'Dragos Voda' National College from Campulung. The action was financed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport and targeted the involvement of youth in concrete environmental actions, as well as the attainment of a moral posture in respect to the environment. Young men and women from the Association 'Decembrie '89', the club 'Ecotouring' and the club 'Speo-Bucovina' also participated in the action¹¹.

The association 'Young Friends of Nature' has organized an entire series of environmental events for youth. These events include: 'Children and the Nature' that took place in Timisoara in November '94-'98, the campaign 'Planting Trees' that took place in Lunca Timisului in April '95, 'Cleaning the Green Forests' in '96 and even campaigns promoting the bicycle as non-polluting means of transportation¹².

Another pattern of action is represented by the initiatives of education institutions. The Remetea Mare secondary school, with the support of the regional Directorate of Waters organized a series of events celebrating the International Day of the Earth. This included the cleaning of the banks of Bega near Remetea Mare and a symposium of essays with the theme 'The Pollution of the Environment', in the school¹³.

Also, there are numerous examples of actions organized by environmental NGO's that aim at informing youth on, or getting them involved in actually solving environment-related issues. In this way, the Association 'Mare Nostrum', together with The Museum of Arts, The Arts High-School, and the County School Inspectorate, all from Constanta, organized in 2004 at the Art Museum from Constanta a series of events dedicated to the International Day of the Black Sea. The event included an exhibition of photography and of objects crafted out of recyclable materials, an exhibition that was opened only to school students, who at the end were awarded prizes. The slogan of the event 'Recycle for a Clean Seaside' was addressed mainly to young artists¹⁴.

'Pro Natura' is an association that got actively involved, mainly in the student life, through environment projects that stressed on the necessity to preserve nature. The beginning was represented by the projection of images in faculties. Later they put together a radio show called Pro-Nature hosted by Radio Romania Youth and now, they are concerned with ensuring students efficient access to information about the environment through the most modern of all means of communication-the Internet. 'Pro Natura' used its own experience regarding the successful use of the Internet and its knowledge of the needs of NGO's regarding information and communication and in 1998 launched an

Internet Surfing Center for students and NGO's that allows them efficient access to information and better communication with their partners.

In 2002, Foundation Life implemented a local youth initiative that aimed at getting youth involved in the issues of the community, more precisely in saving the 'Paraul Petea' Natural Reservation. The main activities of the project revolved around two main directions: informing and educating the populace and the authorities; direct intervening to clean the Natural Reservation. More than 30 young men and women were involved in the actions of this project¹⁵.

Another example comes from the Association 'Ecologie-Sport-Turism', who developed some projects in the capital Bucharest, including: The setting-up of a Eco-Tourist center in all education institutions and the organization of an ecologic summer camp in the Iezer Massif –realized with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sport; The project 'Youth for Youth', involving over 100 teenagers from high-schools in Bucharest, and consisting of training some 10-15 volunteers per high-school, who would later participate in environment and tourism projects for youth during summer holiday¹⁶.

A particularly interesting example is offered by 'Eco-Motoc', a student's club from the 'Gheorghe Motoc High-School'. The members of this club, under the guidance of one of the teachers, without any funding, carried out a project called 'High-School Students and the Environment' pursuing many objectives, such as: the promotion of ecology as science of managing the nature; the information of youth through posters, shows, scientific sessions; the setting up of a group for the conservation of the Romanian village; the setting up of an ecologic fashion group; the sensitization through arts; participation in education fairs. The project unfolded during the entire school year and aimed not only at informing youth on the preservation of the environment, or involving youth in ecologic actions, but also at educating them in an ecologic spirit¹⁷.

Sometimes, it is also the non-governmental sector that represents the financing sources for such environmental projects. For example, 'Fundatia pentru Parteneriat' ('The Foundation for partnership') had financed in 2002 many projects of various associations, including the project of the National Organization of Romanian Scouts, which aimed at promoting ecologic tourism in the Cozia-Nartu National Park, at informing youth on eco-tourism and at protecting a mountainous area and the environment in general.

4. Conclusions

The government and state authorities have proved in the last years that they are interested in financing environment protection research projects. In this way, in the National Plan for Research-Development and Innovation for the period 1999-2005, are considered eligible those projects that stimulate economic growth, but only with respect for environmental norms and protecting the environment, these being eligible domains for research projects¹⁸. Even so, there is no explicit direction for financing youth-made environment protection research projects. These are probably financed on regular basis if and when they are forwarded. Unfortunately, we have failed to find such a research project initiated and coordinated exclusively by youth, a fact that could denote poor interests from young researchers in this field.

Recent studies point to the fact that the level of atmospheric pollution in our country has decreased by 30% in the last 10 years, due to the massive restructuring of the industry and the shutdown of many plants or industrial facilities. On the other hand, the level of sound pollution affects more and more Romanians, manifesting itself especially under the form of professional maladies.

The Romanian Parliament and Government have proved to be prompt in elaborating the legislation, or implementing the communitarian *acquis* in the field, the legislation being the chapter where our country was able to make relatively swift progress. At the time being, there are norms regulating the conservation and durable use of the natural patrimony¹⁹, the rules for environment protection that have to be followed in industrial production, as well as the technical norms relating to the level of sound or air pollution that vehicles circulating on public roads should meet²⁰.

Efforts are being made to lower the level of pollution, through programs of renewal of the existing car lot. To this end, a Government Order states that owners of motorized vehicles that are older than 12 years may receive for their automobile a sum of money that they should use as down payment for a new automobile²¹.

5. SWOT Analyses

All in all, Romania's youth environmental policy in the last decade has both strengths and weaknesses. These are better resumed in the ensuing SWOT analysis:

Firstly, from the point of view of the environmental education of youth, we have identified the following **strengths**:

- Elements of ecology are thought in schools, and the accent is often placed on respecting environment protection norms.
- Informal education, which is not necessarily carried out in schools, is gaining more and more weight, due to the activity of the NGO's.
- The weaknesses are the following:
 - The inexistence of a specialized 'ecology' or 'environmental protection' class in school curricula. Students are thought only elements of this discipline.
 - The lack of a firm educational policy relating to ecologic education. The field itself is still subsidiary to many others.
 - There is a reduced number of specialists that could be instructors in the field.
 - The activity of youth or environmental NGO's, through their activity do get young persons involved in ecologic actions or carry out information campaigns.
 - the existing legal framework offers youth the chance of living in a healthy environment.

The **opportunities** to be pursued are as follows:

- ⇒ A large number of environment protection higher education graduates may soon form a didactic corps for school students and may teach ecology classes, when the decision to introduce such a class is made.

The existing **threats** for the environmental education policy are represented by:

- ♦ The lack of a rigorous and coherent education for the young may undermine in the future governmental or non-governmental efforts of cleansing the environment.
- ♦ Even with adequate formal or non-formal education, youth can still be negatively influenced by some of older persons.

Secondly, in what the involvement of youth in protecting the environment, the SWOT analysis, brings out the following strengths:

The **weaknesses** consist of:

- The inexistence of special-purpose governmental funding destined to finance youth environmental projects.
- The low number of governmental projects destined to enhance the participation of youth in ecologic actions.

The opportunities reside in the fact that communitarian funds may finance more and more youth environmental projects, which could generate both a quantitative and qualitative increase.

As a threat, we can point out to the fact that the lack of consistent education may cause youth involvement in such environmental projects to suffer.

Therefore, if in the future environment protection will become an important part of the school curricula and if there will be a large enough number of specialists in the field, it is possible for formal ecologic education to gain an important role in educating youth to behave in a manner that serves the environment. Also, non-formal education could see a significant growth, provided that more funds would be directed in order to support the activity of the NGO's.

And if youth will be educated in the spirit of protecting the environment, the level of pollution could decrease, as these people may become more sensitive with respect to environment-related issues. Also, volunteers for ecologic actions will be much more easily co-opted. Basically, the way in which we educate the young generation is relevant for how the environment will look in the following decades.

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1. Argument: why is drug abuse prevention given importance?

The problem of drug abuse prevention represents a social (micro and macro-social) level preoccupation, as well as a legislative one. The importance of this social-political domain is accentuated by the UN's approach of the phenomenon since it has been founded. Statistically, there are 53 member states of the Commission for Narcotic Drugs, created in 1946, the principle of involvement being based on rotation. The UN Drugs Control Program (UNDCP) had been implemented in 1990 by the UN's Office.

The European community represented a constant reporter in the analysis of drug abuse, the offer from developing states to the industrialized ones being marked as the main cause of drug consumption. The identification of the phenomenon's cause led to a cleavage towards reducing the demands, not giving attention to the consumers. In time, high levels of consumption were found in developing countries as well. This led to a bivalent rapport between demand-offer, which had to be resolved. The Political Declaration was adopted in 1998 by the General Assembly, document that stated the objectives and the time limits assigned in the context of drug abuse as a social phenomenon. Creating institutions and authorities that have the right to deal with the drug abuse problem, structured by the UN's model, was next.

Through the nongovernmental organizations programs for youth as well as through project and measures of the Government (along with these nongovernmental organizations or own projects), Romania aligned itself to this strategy of fight against drugs among youth.

2. ROMANIAN OPERATIVE LEGISLATION REGARDING DRUG CONSUMPTION

Romanian legislation stipulates collaboration reports with foreign institutions and internal nongovernmental organizations also regarding drug abuse control. Fighting against drug traffic represents a statutory measure in all bi or tri-lateral accords signed between the Romanian Government and similarly foreign organizations. The interest given to these countermeasures regarding drug consumption among youth, follows the same international pathway of development as the programs that fight against drug consumption. Romania sets itself at international standards through these law projects, finding allies in the legal fights against drug abuse.

Since 2001 Romania's Government signed partnerships with the member states of the UN regarding the decrease of drug abuse. Accords had been signed between Romanian officials and their foreign counterparts in this sense:

-2001- The Accord between the Romania's Government and the Israeli and Government regarding cooperation in fighting against traffic and abuse drug and psychotropic substances and other serious offences.ⁱ

-2001- July 3rd- the agreement between Romania's Government and the US Government regarding the development of a strategy for the prevention and fight against drug consumption. The Government Emergency Order no. 76/2004 regarding the notification of the additional protocol had been approved afterwards on the 17th of September 2004ⁱⁱ

-2002, March 19th - The health and family office decreed the details regarding the medical services for drug consumers and made a classification of the medical units and non Governmental organizations, which way he facilitated to assure this medical assistance and may proceed further activities of drug consumption prevention, through the Order no. 187. These must be specified in the initiatives in Law no. 143/2000ⁱⁱⁱ, regarding the fight against traffic and consumption of drugs. (Based on the Governments Decision no.22/2001 regarding the health and family office's structure and the work, with the afterwards modifications and adding's)^{iv}

-2003, November, 12th- the accord between Romania's Government and the Government of the Macedonian Republic, regarding the cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, drugs, psychotropic substances, and other illegal activities as well.^v

The next medical services are to be offered to addicted persons through these laws

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a) the detoxification cure represents all the measures used in the treatment;

b) the post cure and the psychosocial rehabilitation represent all the measures used in c) the treatment of the psychological addiction and the process of regaining the social and professional abilities lost because of the drug;

c) the ambulatory substitution programs mean replacing the drug used with methadone or other specific substances;

d) information, education and communication represents the activities through which addicted people are offered information in order to put an end to this risky behavior, and also if they continue with this behavior, information about measures that reduce the negative consequences associated with drug consumption;

e) prevention of the pathogenic microorganisms transmission through blood (HIV, HBV, CHV) while using injection drugs represents ensuring sterile syringes and needles by trading these on used ones.

The health units able to apply all specified measures are:

-Psychiatric hospitals, health units in which function psychiatric sections or specialized centers – for the detoxification cure; psychiatric health or specialized posture centers – for the posture and the psychosocial rehabilitation; mental health and daily stationary lab's – for the ambulatory substitution programs (in order to maintain the addicted on methadone)^{vi}

This law project needed the support of institutions accredited on the domain. Public health general direction, medical assistance, integrated medical programs and services general directions, Pharmaceutical general directions, Management, payment and sanitary structures directions from the Health and Family Office, State Sanitary Inspection, Public Health Direction Romania's Parliament has approved Law no.300 from the 17th May 2002, for a better implementation of this law project, in which was mentioned that producing, owning or any activity with forerunners is allowed only in medical, veterinary sanitary, industrial, learning or scientific research purpose.^{vii}

The Health and Family Office, The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Public Finances and Resources Office represent the official institutions allowed and obliged to supervise this law's application due to their attributions in this domain. The Police General Inspectorate's involvement appears in making a data base regarding operations with forerunners and is obliged to cooperate with foreign competitive authorities and international organisms which have as purpose the fight against drug consumption

The National Anti-Drug Agency has an important role in developing programs of prevention and fight against drug traffic and consumption, the

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financial support for these projects being assured by the National Anti-Drug Strategy Normative Act established by Law no.381 from 2004

Through Law no.128/1998 ^{viii} had been established that all goods confiscated in these prevention programs are to be transformed in income for the state budget

In conclusion, the legislative actions taken by Romanian officials since 2001 have as target point the prevention of drug consumption at international level, projects of internal law in this sense existing since 1998. The National Anti-drug Agency is supposed to cover its attributions in order for the internal legislation's wrights and efficient application, and these attributions are:

- pointing out the judicial decisions through which is disposed the confiscation of all goods resulted from drug traffic;
- developing programs and projects that are to be financed, in accordance with the National's Anti-drug Strategy's principles and priorities;
- requesting with the title of "free", goods that come under the incidence of this law; from the inter-ministerial commission constituted along side with the Government's General Secretariat
- requesting, with the title of "free", the property over goods confiscated through the notification of some offences through Government's Ordinance no.128/1998, republished by the Public Finances Office.^{ix}

3. Drug abuse

3.1 General presentation. Romania's situation

Drugs are defined, according by a living organism, modifies one or more of its functions (HMO). Continuing drug's definition, abuse supposes any excessive, continued or rare utilization of a drug, incompatible or regarding medical practice without being continued; occasionally, intermittently, not giving addiction; episodic, in determined circumstances; systematically, giving addiction. *The pharmaceutical characterization of the drug is, "a substance used or not in medicine which can give mental and physical addiction or serious disorders of mind activities, perception and attitude, if consumed in excess".^{xi} There have been legislative regards since 1961, with the establishment of control through the Unique Convention over drugs, and 1971 when psychotropic substances joined this control. Psychotropic substances had been gives a particularly sense, other than the one of drugs, through conventions and protocols applied to drugs.

In today's Romania drug abuse is seen as a social problem, with effects extended at national level, its main agents being the youth, as drug producers and consumers. Statistic data from a national test reveals that 86, 3% of Romania's population agrees with the former affirmation.^{xii} Sustaining the population's opinion regarding drug consumption come the capture of 25199.51Kg of drugs, at international level, in 2001 (an 114.5% raise had been recorded, given the precedent years) and the arresting of 1676 persons involved in drug traffic.^{xiii}

Lugoj is known on the drug map as an important transit point fore the heroin from Turkey to West Europe. In May 1999 the, "Organized Crime" captured 25 Kilograms of heroin hidden in a microbus, and 25 Kilograms in July 1999, with Germany as its destination.

3.2. Youth drug consumption causes

Most people don't know enough things regarding the effects of different drugs consumption, which gives room for confusion, some of the most frequent causes due to which a man becomes a consumer, are:

- the possibility appears and the youth jut tries it;
- in order to escape from daily problems: divorce of the parents, parental abuse or neglect, at school or in other situations

External causes:

- low educational and cultural level;
- lack of information or fake info in drugs;
- imitation of movie models, etc;
- spending time with addicted people;
- going to places where drugs are consumed.

3.3. Drug abuse effects

Most drugs used from social reasons, legally or not, affect the brain, and mostly the mental processes. These are psychoactive drugs. Drugs and the reason they are consumed vary from area to area and depend on time:

- used as “social lubricants”, drugs help their consumers become more relaxed, opened, friendly and sociable;
- they give a temporary relief, like a break-out for a period of time;
- the pressure inside a group, for example someone takes drugs because his friends or colleagues from his company do that.

To illustrate the situation in Romania, in 2001, in Bucharest had been recorded the following statistics: 2755 persons solicited medical treatment (1% of the population), from which 521 recidivated (19%), 15 died from overdose.

Drugs represent one of the main ways on HIV/AIDS infection as the statistic dates regarding the HIV/AIDS phenomenon mention.

4. Drug abuse prevention programs

4.1. Governmental programs

Large amounts of money are spent yearly in order to implement programs for prevention and fight against drug traffic and consumption. Numbers rise up to 3 500 000 Euro/year, 600 000 Euro being allocated from the state budget.

Through the strategy program elaborated by the Ministry of Education and Family is pursued the achieving of real and faxable objectives:

- reducing drug consumption diseases with 10-15 %;
- reducing drug consumption deaths with 10 %;
- reducing relapse in drug dependence with 10 %.

An active involvement of the authorities in drug consumption prevention had been noticed in 1999. The Anti-drug Interdepartmental Commission was founded, a series of programs being organized afterwards in this direction, plus the National Anti-drug Strategy's ratification. In the same year the book, "Youth and drug consumption: creation, use and evaluation of educative materials and activities", by the Department of Health, the Direction of Health and Community Health Promotion, the World Health Organization and the Mentor Foundation. In 2001 had been implemented the prevention program, "Drug Consumption – Where To?", and, beginning with 2002, Anti-drug Prevention and Conciliation Centers had been established in every counties. Establishing these centers supposed instructing personnel. The drug consumption prevention media campaign "It's All Up to You" and "Anti-drug Music" followed.

The ensuing period was recorded under the patronage of the National Anti-drug Strategy, elaborated by the Parliament in 2002, on medium term (2002-2004). At international level, the institutionally fraternity was realized (Spain, Great Britain) through the program, "The Fight Against Drugs".

The guide of drug consumption prevention program "Barbacana" was printed, the Doctor's Manual and the Pupil's Manual, in Bucharest, Timisoara, Iasi, Constanta, Sibiu, Cluj.^{xiv}

A new project, with a 2.075 million euro budget (0.425 million euro as a co-finance) is "The fight against drug traffic and consumption". The Administration and International Department amplified the prevention and fight actions against drug traffic and consumption. The protocol between the National Agency for Youth^{xv} and the National Anti-drug Agency implies building up a better or excellent Post-Cure through efficient the treatment cure in drug dependence care by continuing the treatment in a healthy environment, through special techniques of recovering.

At country level, through the County Councils are being instituted programs for social adaptation of youth with social problems. "In the county of

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Alba were recorded in the precedent years a series of such programs through which youth with problems were gives assistance. Specific programs dedicated to youth which use drugs were implemented".^{xvi}

"Education for health in Romanian school", a project of the Ministry of Education and Research, The National Council fore curriculum, approved in 2003, referred to the formal, non formal and informal education, having as purpose the establishing of programs regarding drug consumption prevention (education for a healthier lifestyle, reducing the number of sicknesses and of risky comportments, information at national (rural and urban) level on programs of fight against drug traffic and consumption)^{xvii}

4.2. Nongovernmental organizations involved in drug abuse prevention

Nongovernmental organizations involved themselves in developing programs of fight and prevention of drug consumption, by offering packages of services in this sense. Work points had been opened in most towns.

Classes offered by the nongovernmental organizations specialized in drug abuse followed the next points: recovering -counseling; organizing and preparing of the local prevention network, individual or group counseling, training prevention staff, voluntaries, educational materials.

5. SWOT analysis

In a SWOT type analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) the four elements would be:

Strengths

- Developing programs regarding drug consumption amongst youth, through nongovernmental organizations specialized in this domain, and the Government implemented (with these nongovernmental organizations or through own projects) legal ways of support for those affected by drug consumption.
- Signing agreements of collaboration regarding drug abuse prevention between the Romanian government and foreign governments.
- The State policies led by the Parliament and the Government regarding the fight against drug consumption in order to avoid a national demographic accident.
- Drug trade is covered by the operative legislation, which stipulates penalties.
- Shows and articles in the mass media – publicizing the offer of services and programs for drug consumers.
- Fighting against dealers through the Police's involvement in identifying the zonal distribution centers
- Creating free treatment centers, assisting the ill ones till they're fully recovered, and the church's involve and the change of the public opinion regarding drug addicted are means to fight against drug consumption.
- Informing programs and forming programs for specialists in drug consumption
- Projects with educative character in order to attract youth in positive activities

Weaknesses

- Insufficient funds for drug abuse prevention programs
- Difficulties in application of the principles of drug abuse prevention activities
- The impossibility of controlling the consumption of drugs phenomenon and of the distribution network dissemination.

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- Violent methods and parents' abandon
- Lack of specialized work instruments (reports, studies) to be presented in large scale

Opportunities

- ⇒ With Romania entering the EU a new opening will be available towards international collaboration regarding the drug abuse.
- ⇒ The development of socially integrated network regarding the prevention of drug abuse by the nongovernmental specialized organizations.
- ⇒ Building nongovernmental organizations specialized in drug consumption prevention; collaborations between these nongovernmental organizations and governmental institutions.

Threats

- ◆ Drug addicts are considered delinquents, but they are actually sick people that can not respond for their acts; they are cast-outs, not being understood by anyone, their souls are masked by pain, they toss themselves between lie and truth.
- ◆ The impact was very big among youth that started to consume drugs from curiosity, show-off or solidarity to their company.
- ◆ The Romanian society was taken by surprise by this scourge of drugs, making grave problems both legally and medical as well. The unskillful and delayed reactions of the authorities favored the phenomenon of drug addiction which became devastating
- ◆ The lack of an educational culture in order to discuss the problems of drugs

6. Conclusions

Drug consumption evolution marks an ascendant curve starting from 1995 to 2000, point from which it started to descend.^{xviii}

Year	They tried to consume %	Drug addicted %	Level of abstinence %
1995	2,67	0,73	96,6
2000	10,85		
2002	8,98	1,6	86,8

Knowing the main drugs used, their way of administration and their effects have a special part in preventing the abuse. Relevant statistic data's for the last years show a tendency in decrease regarding drug traffic and consumption in Romania.

This fact leads to supposing that in the next period (till 2007) the tendency of stabilizing drug consumption among youth, experimental recreational purpose, will be mentioned.

Through the protocols signed between governmental organizations and nongovernmental associations are being assured the quality, the transparency and the large-scale effects of the implemented programs. Publicizing these actions raises the number of those that benefit of the services designated to drug consumers and abuse prevention, but also creates a reticence of those affected by raising the problem of information confidentiality.

In this way, the administrative and politic areas are being covered and ways of constraining drug consumption are being given. Still, the medical, social, psychological and economic aspects involved in the phenomenon of drug consumption and traffic remains unsupported and unsolved. Joining the EU will highlight these problems.

In solving the problems regarding the high level of drug consumers and of the crime rate among youth, "partnerships in civil society must be applied. There are no general valuable receipts for youth problems' amelioration. The Mayor and the Council must know which are the problems at local level and communicate them to the Government".^{xix}

Drug consuming remain on the outsider social category, because civil society didn't create herself as a respondent for social aspects

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ⁱⁱ Decree no. 989, SuperLex

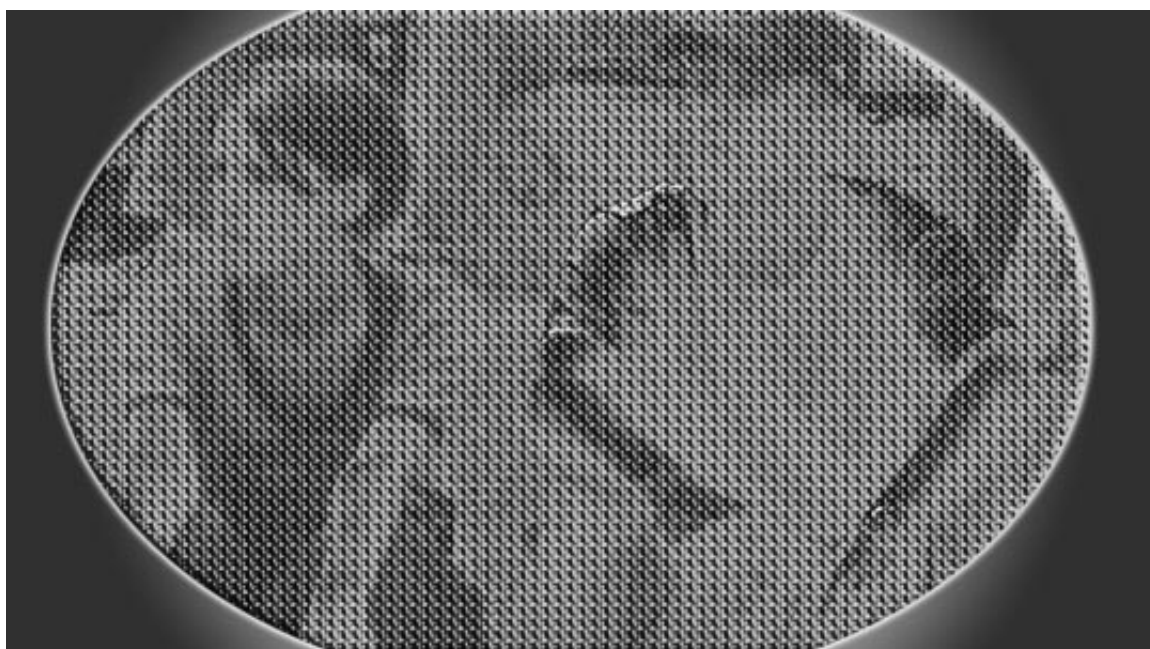
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1. General Facts

Children and young people up to the age of 24 represent a segment of the population that caught the attention of the Romanian government and of its institutions. Increase of juvenile delinquency is a reason to worry, that is why, in order to prevent this, means of psycho-social stabilization for the troubled teens were found and not only.

Ensuring and respecting children's rights and placing them in a zone of special interest is a national priority. This consists in, first of all, the fact that the life, development and welfare that all children should benefit of at the dawn of a new century and millennium are the ground base of a country's future. Besides, when it comes to Romania, the complex process of joining the E.U. is certainly connected to respecting the political criteria of Copenhagen regarding human rights, particularly children's rights.

The observance, promotion, and exercise of the rights of the child, as they are defined in the international instruments ratified by Romania, will contribute to the full and harmonious development of every child's personality. Thus, the spirit of the Romanian people's traditions and cultural values will be complemented by a new, modern, and dynamic component - integration into universal spirituality. In the light of that integration, child protection in Romania means striking a balance of three essential components: child, family and society. Assuring this balance must be settled, applied and supervised continuously by the state, as a fundamental responsibility of it regarding the faith of all its citizens.

Art. 3 of the UN Convention regarding Children's Rights, approved by Romania by law no. 18/1990, emphasizes that "all decisions regarding the children, either made by public or private social protection institutions, by law-courts, administrative authorities or by legislative organs, the best interests of the child must be considered a priority"ⁱ. The state "must assure the protection and care necessary for the child's welfare, considering the rights and obligations of the parents, the legal guardians, of all people legally responsible for the child, and will take all the adequate legislative and administrative measures to do this"ⁱⁱ. Also, the state "will make sure that all the institutions, services and places responsible for children and that assure their protection, are in accordance with the standards set by the qualified authorities, especially in the field of health and security, and also regarding the number and qualification of their personnel, and in a proper inspection"ⁱⁱⁱ.

Among the approximately 6 million children of Romania, there are also disadvantaged children. Special actions must be undertaken and promoted in order to help them, to respect and guarantee all of their rights, so that the plenary development of these children is assured. Efficient child protection is not going to be possible without a systematic approach, considering it a constitutive part of

the social, family, educational and health policies, all ending with the rising welfare of the entire population, and implicitly of the children.

The background for the necessary actions and measures so that the key points of the child protection policy become true is defined by the Strategy of the Romanian Government. Built concordantly to the stipulations of the international conventions and treaties in this field, approved by our country, this strategy regards also the specific features of intervention in the socio-economic and cultural Romanian context. In the definition and implementation of its strategy concerning the protection of the child, the Government of Romania starts out from the major political premise that the reform in this field needs to be continued and deepened, by turning to good account the experience and positive results obtained so far, as well as by granting more attention to aspects that still pose major problems in the system. In this context, the present strategy is a revised and improved version of the previous strategy.

"It is important to underline that, in the complex actions undertaken to provide protection for children, to observe and promote their rights, Romania benefits from a consistent support granted by the international community.

Therefore:

- the European Union has been involved in the field by means of the PHARE assistance programs ever since the early '90s, both by providing a significant cumulated volume of grants, as well as by means of multiple and sustained technical expertise;
- the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has also been an active presence in this country ever since 1990, developing multiple projects with the main purpose to improve the situation of children, from a social, medical or educational point of view;
- The World Bank and the Bank for Development of the Council of Europe are partners of the Romanian Government in an important reform program of the system for the protection of the child;
- the Governments of countries such as the US, the UK, France, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland support the Romanian system of child protection, either on a bilateral basis, or in the framework of more ample international programmes."^{iv}

2. Target groups of the national strategy in this domain

Target groups considered in the establishment of the government's strategy of action regarding child protection are:

- Institutionalized children
- Children protected in the family, both their own family (in order to reduce the risk of abandonment) and the substitutive family / alternative family type services
- Abused children, neglected or abused by their own family
- Children with special needs, and the ones infected by HIV/AIDS placed in institutions or alternative forms of protection
- Delinquent children
- Homeless children
- On a long term children/young people that reach adult age while being institutionalized

According to the Romanian Government's Strategy to improve the situation for the gypsies, adopted by Government Decision no. 430/2001, special attention will be paid to the children from this minority group. Moreover, these children are found in all of the target groups taken in consideration by the present strategy.

3. Deviant and delinquent indicators

Development of efficient methods to prevent delinquency requires a deep comprehension of the exact type of crime, in this case juvenile delinquency, of the type of crime that involves under aged persons. Juvenile delinquency was the target of many researches that have revealed the "standard" crimes committed by young people and the characteristics of the under aged criminal.

Juvenile delinquency, as shown by the provided data, mainly consists in patrimonial crimes. Regarding this, it is worth mentioning that the value of the prejudice is low and can be considered the inverse number of crimes against this social interest. In other words, if we are talking about numbers to determine the damages inflicted, juvenile delinquency is less significant in the field of patrimonial crimes, than delinquency committed by persons other than juveniles.

Crimes committed by minors are usually placed in the same geographical area as their residence. Such crimes are mostly directed against their peers, meaning people of the same age, belonging to the same social class. Juvenile

delinquency does not stand out as organized crime, it is rather spontaneous, episodic and unplanned.

Research based on observations and statistics prove that the peak of initial delinquencies is at the age of 14-18, diminishing to the age of 20.

Number of young people (18 to 29 years) that committed crimes.

Year	Number of young people that committed a crime (investigated)	Growth rate
1993	55 625	0
1994	70 905	27 %
1995	80 005	44 %
1996	87 421	57 %
1997	100 933	81 %
1998	102 500	84 %
1999	92 077	66 %
2000	94 634	70 %

Source: Ministry of internal affairs, General Police Inspectorate

There is an increase of young criminals, followed by a relative stabilization.

The dynamics of juvenile delinquency (15 to 29 years) from 1996 to 1998, reported to the judicial phase (prosecuted, convicted, sentenced)..

Year	Judicial phase		
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Sentenced

VIII. Juvenile delinquency and conflict prevention

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		Total	% out of prosecuted	Total	% out of prosecuted	% out of convicted
1996	104 316	69 058	66	21 957	21	32
1997	121 227	79 686	65	23 481	19	30
1998	120 948	73 941	61	22 194	18	30

Source : Ministry of internal affairs, General Police Inspectorate

In the three years, the number and gravity of the sentenced young people is smaller than the prior phases.

Number of convicted young people (15-29) reported to the type of crime:

Type of crime	Year					
	1996		1997		1998	
	Absolute numbers	%	Absolute numbers	%	Absolute numbers	%
Violent crimes	7962	11.5%	9553	12 %	10 467	14.2 %
Sex crimes	1452	2. %	1493	1.9 %	1344	1.8 %
Property crimes	58 331	84.3 %	66 889	84 %	60 847	82.3 %
Drug dealing	329	0.5 %	352	0.4 %	239	0.3 %
Offenses against public peace, order and decency	1080	1.5 %	1623	2 %	1044	1.4 %
Total of crimes	69 154	100%	79 910	100%	73 941	100%
Total convicted people*	69 058	-	79 686	-	73 941	-

Source : Ministry of internal affairs, General Police Inspectorate

By the type of crimes, it is noticed that:

- Theft is the most frequent crime committed by the young (over 80% of the crimes each year);
- Violent crimes tend to increase in numbers.

Number of sentenced minors between 1995-1998

	1995 - %		1996 - %		1997 - %		1998 - %	
Personal crimes	516	6,2	594	6,5	654	6,3	785	8,0
Theft	7608	91,2	8147	89,3	9394	89,9	8645	88,3
Offences against authorities	20	0,2	11	0,1	8	0,1	9	0,1
Economic crimes	1	-	6	-	1	-	2	-
Crimes that lead to relations regarding social cohabitation	55	0,7	78	0,8	87	0,8	87	0,8
Driving offences	140	1,7	290	3,3	304	2,9	263	2,8
Total	8340		9126		10448		9791	

Source: Ministry of justice

- Number of sentenced minors is rising;
- Among the crimes they are sentenced for, theft is most popular;
- Violence is more and more frequent among minors.

Drug consumers (registered) by groups of age (1999)

	11-14 years	15-18 years	19-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	Over 65 years
No. of cases	14	73	296	187	49	23	4	4

Source: National Report regarding the drugs issue in the year 1999, the Brigade Against Organized Crime and Corruption (BCCOC), 2000, p. 45

Drug consumers (registered) by residence (1999)

	rural	urban
No. of cases	19	614
%	3	97

Source: National Report regarding the drugs issue in the year 1999, the Brigade Against Organized Crime and Corruption (BCCOC), 2000, p. 45

From the data given by the BCCOC about registered drug consumers (in the year 1999) we conclude that: the group of age most vulnerable is 19-24 (student age for most of the young people); the drugs menace is genuine in the urban environment.

The dynamics of suicide among the young people (15-29 years) between 1995-1999

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
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No. of suicides	477	448	464	248	434
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Source: Center of calculus, sanitary statistics and medical reference (CCSSDM)

The dynamics of suicide rate for the years 1995 to 1999 varies around 450 cases, the number of suicides for people aged 15 do 29 tending to fall. The year 1998 is out of the ordinary, with the smallest number of suicides (248) and almost half the value from the precedent year.

4. Fundamental principles of the national strategy concerning juvenile delinquency

The principles that lie at the foundation of the strategy in the field of child protection are the following:

1. *THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD*

The best interest of the child is most important in all actions done in the name of the governmental strategy.

The strategy promotes actions that focus to the protection of children that are in difficult situations or in risk situations, regardless of the origin of the situation.

2. *THE PRINCIPLE OF NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES*

The policy in the field of child protection is conceived and applied so as to guarantee children's rights foreseen in the UN convention are promoted and respected in Romania, regardless of race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political orientation or any other nature, nationality, ethnic and social origin, infirmity, birth or situation of the child or its parents or tutors.

3. *THE PRINCIPLE OF AN ASSURED FAMILY ENVIRONMENT*

All steps established by the Governmental Strategy are based on assuring a family environment for every child, inclusively for children in difficulty. If the a in difficulty is protected in substitutive families or in residential institutions for a period of time, the priority is realizing a family type environment for the entire duration of the protection measure – until the child is reintegrated into the natural family, the enlarged family or (in cases where reintegration is not possible or not in the best interests of the child) until the child is integrated into and adoptive family.

4. *THE PRINCIPLE OF DECENTRALIZATION AND OF MAKING THE COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN*

Nowadays, the protection system for children in difficulty is decentralized on district level, respectively the Bucharest's sectors. The present Governmental Strategy is based on strengthening the public services specialized on child protection subordinated to the County Councils, respectively to local Sector Councils, as well as the implication of the local community, by continuous decentralization of some services at the level of local municipalities. Special attention will be granted to making the community accountable for solving the problems related to their own children.

5. *THE PRINCIPLE OF SOLIDARITY*

Raising, forming and educating all children is done in the spirit of justice, liberty and respect for their peers, focusing first and foremost on strengthening the social cohesion, while dealing with child-related issues, especially when referring to the most vulnerable-children in difficulty.

6. THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERSECTORIAL INTERVENTION

The problems regarding the protection of the child are approached in the context of social, family, and education policies. Approaching and solving problems in the field presupposes cooperation and coordination of the interventions of all responsible factors, as well as an intersectorial and interdisciplinary approach.

7. THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTNERSHIP

In all the types of activities specified in the Government Strategy for the protection of the child in difficulty, NAPCA promotes cooperation with:

- Ministries and other institutions of the central administration, as well as with their territorial structures;
- Specialized public services of the local public administration in the counties and the districts of the Municipality of Bucharest;
- The local communities;
- Romanian and foreign non-governmental organizations acting in the field of the protection of the child by means of humanitarian and professional programs;
- European and international institutions, bodies, and organizations.

The principle of partnership operates at all the levels of intervention, from national to local. All types of activities, from the drafting and coordination of the strategy to the interdisciplinary intervention in the benefit of children and families are carried out by cooperation and partnership.^v

5. Governmental institutions responsible in this area

The National Authority for the Protection of the Child and Adoption

Established by virtue of the Government's Emergency Ordinance no. 12/2001, The National Authority for the Protection of the Child and Adoption (NAPCA) is the Government's specialized body providing methodological coordination for child protection activities, whose main responsibility is to draft, coordinate and monitor the policies in the field. In order to achieve the purpose it was created for, NAPCA has adopted and promoted the provisions contained in the international treaties and conventions defining its own domain, starting out from :

- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- the UN Convention regarding the Rights of the Child
- the Convention on the Protection of the Children and on Cooperation in the Field of International Adoption, concluded in Hague

NAPCA fulfils the following functions:

- • strategic, whereby it ensures the substantiation, development and implementation of the reform strategy and programs in the domain of the child adoption
 - • regulatory, whereby it ensures the necessary regulatory framework in order to achieve the objectives and programs formulated
 - • administrative, whereby it performs the management of the public and private property of the state, as well as the management of the public services in the field of the protection of the children in difficulty
 - • representation, ensuring internal and external representation on behalf of the Romanian state
- state authority, by which it monitors the implementation of regulations in its field of competence, it supervises the adequate implementation of those regulations, as well as the activity of the institutions and bodies that operate under its coordination or its authority.^{vi}

The Experimental Probation Center

The Experimental Probation Center in Bucharest, as a specialized organism, was founded based on the Ministry of Justice Order no. 2922/13.11.2000, and also on the protocol signed between the Ministry of Justice, The Romanian Group for the Defense of human Rights, The Family and Child Protection Foundation.

Objectives:

- Higher security for the community
- Reduced juvenile delinquency
- Lower risk of recidivating
- Social reintegration for criminals
- Assistance for the client when adopting a pro social behavior
- Involvement of the community in preventing and stopping juvenile delinquency^{vii}

6. The implication of the ministries

• *THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE*

Cooperation between the courts and authorities of the public administration regarding the social investigations conducted to establish guardianship, the entrustment of minors, adoption and abandonment.

The completion of the set of laws in the field (Civil Code, Penal Code, Family Code and other normative acts) in order to ensure the observance of the children's rights and protection from any abuse.

• *THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS*

The cooperation between the authorities of the local public administration and of public order on the one hand, and specific services within the Ministry of internal affairs

The supervision of the families that include children at risk (abused, neglected) and intervention in the homes or families that abuse and neglect their children, as well as the notification of the authorities of local public administration on the need to initiate the required legal procedures.

• *MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE FAMILY*

The cooperation between the authorities of the local public administration and the specialized emergency services in the health care system ;

Creating, together with the authorities of the local public administration, community services dedicated to the treatment, care, rehabilitation and protection of children with disabilities according to local needs and resources.

• *THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY*

Together with the authorities of the local public administration, will develop programs for socio-professional orientation for children (young people) in the protection system;

Supporting initiatives concerning the establishment of protected companies and workshops that may facilitate the vocational integration of young people.

• *THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH*

Cooperation between the authorities of the local public administration and the Romanian education system through financing local programs aiming at the educational institutionalization and social integration of the children with difficulties.

Supporting the specialized institutions of child protection, by involvement of the authorities of the local public administration in educational programs and programs that promote children's rights.

General objectives of the National Strategy

Improving, completing, and harmonizing the legislative framework required for the organization and operation of the system for the protection of the child, both in order to improve and clarify that framework, and to bring it in line with the standards stipulated in the international norms and treaties in the field to which Romania is a party.

In this context, priority will be granted to the following:

- Reconsidering the legislation regarding adoption, the main purpose being to encourage national adoption, with the state granting incentives to adopting families for a definite period
- Clarifying the legal provisions concerning the neglect, maltreatment or abuse that children are exposed to in their own families
- Improving the legislation referring to juvenile delinquency
- Analyzing the possibility to set up a Court for minors
- Improving the legislation referring to exploitation of child labor
- Reconsidering the legislation referring to the sexual exploitation of children

At the same time, by means of a wide process of consultation and involvement of the entire society, a "Code of the child" will be drafted and forwarded for adoption, as a framework or unique law encompassing the whole range of issues and problems related to the life, development and welfare of all children.

7. Legislative measures

The Government Decision no. 539 published in the Official Journal ("Monitorul Oficial") no. 321 from 06/14/2001 regarded the approval of the governmental strategy in the field of protecting the children in difficulty (2001-2004) and the operational plan for implementing the governmental strategy in the field of protecting children in difficulty (2001-2004). With this occasion, the previous Government Decision was abrogated regarding the adoption of the national strategy in the field of protecting the children in difficulty (2000-2003).

The present Government Decision. was approved with the purpose of reducing the radical structural changes, previously adopted by the G.D. 625/2000 and to implement a new common and unitary strategy, according to all the provisions of the treaties in this field approved by Romania. In the same time it was a moment of hesitation regarding the foreseen changes in the field of child protection, for it stood against all efforts to bring foreign investments made by the governmental and non-governmental institutions. The abrogated reform was accordingly to the standards set by the E.U. but was later considered to have a high risk factor, the measures imposed by it leading to an instability that was dangerous to the national system of child protection.^{viii}

Law no. 84, July 24th 1995. The Law of Education

(Republished in the Romanian Official Journal no. 606 10/12/1999)

According to the Constitution and the Law of Education all Romanian citizens have equal rights of accessing all levels of education, regardless of their social and material condition, sex, race, nationality, religious or ethnic origin. Also, the state promotes the principles of democratic education and grants the right to a differentiated education, based on the educational pluralism, in benefit of the individual and the entire society. The present Law of Education makes no reference to any rights of children in difficulty, other than the ones set by and accepted through the Constitution. Although after this law was published in the Official Journal, the national strategy regarding children in difficulty was brought up, the Law of Education was not changed in any way to support the international plan.^{ix}

Order no. 653 25/09/2001 regarding medical care for pre-school children, elementary school, high school and university students.

The Ministry of Health and Family emitted the provisions that medical and dental care for pre-school children and all students are assured by the medical centers in the educational institutions, integrated in the structure of territorial hospitals and financed by the state budget.^x

Even though this law comes in support of the sanitary reform and also to improve the sanitary services for the young people, it misses two essential issues:

- Makes no reference to the treatment for pre-school children and students under the direct care of the state or residential institutions; development of special centers for them and young people under 24 years, deprived of their liberty, but attending a professional school according to the active legislation, is not mentioned.
- None of the changes mentioned above considers making or reforming psychological centers within private or state educational institutions. Even though they exist, indeed in small numbers, their activity in helping pre-school children and students with the main purpose of preventing conflicts, school dropout, delinquency within the school perimeter is insignificant at the moment.

Decision no. 1504 16/09/2004 regarding approval of the national plan to prevent and stop sexual abuse and labor exploitation of children (2004-2007)

Main objectives:

- partnerships and cooperation between institutions responsible for child protection and the families in order to sustain the development of a coherent policy of prevention and fight against sexual abuse and trafficking in human beings.
- an active involvement of Romania in the regional policy to prevent sexual abuse, prostitution and child pornography, child exploitation and eradicate the activity of trafficking organizations.
- development of a coherent and unitary system, functional on a national level, consisting in services of rehabilitation and social reintegration of the abused and/or exploited children.
- stimulating and encouraging the degree of participation of children and young people to the social life, consulting them in the issues regarding them and favoring free speech and opinion.^{xi}

Law no. 48/2002 to approve the Government Order no. 137/2000 provides the prevention and punishment of all forms of discrimination

Protecting the fundamental rights of all citizens has an important place in the Romanian legislation. For this, law no.48/2002 to approve the Government Order no. 137/2000 provides prevention and punishment of all forms of discrimination. The law rewrites the provisions of the European Commission regarding equality for all people regardless of racial or ethnic origin. Regarding the fight against racism xenophobia, a Government Emergency Order was adopted (31/2002) forbidding symbols and organizations with a racist or xenophobic character and promoting the cult of people guilty of committing crimes against peace and humankind.

Based on the provisions of the Government Order no. 13/2000 it was decided to organize the National Council against Discrimination whose mission was to see that the principle of equality was respected among citizens. At the Governmental level, the Department of Inter-ethnic relations is functioning since 1997, reorganized by a Government Decision in 2001, being responsible for development of projects regarding protection of national minorities.

The Penal Procedure Code regarding under-aged inmates

Regarding the Penal Procedure Code, it provides a very precise regime for under-aged inmates, but in the same time leaves room for interpretation regarding applications. For example the arrest cannot be done by the penal investigating body if there are strong evidence or clues leading to the conclusion that the accused has committed a deed provided by the criminal law, but in the same time, if the accused is under 16 years old, at any audience or interrogation, if considered necessary by the investigating body, the tutelary authority, the parents or the legal guardian are called.

Citation of the above people is obligatory when presenting the material for penal investigation.^{xii}

In most cases, the citation does not take place, the child does not benefit of their presence. Deprivation of liberty is provided by the Rules of Beijing. Although they are not compulsory, they should be a series of standards that the states should guide on.

These, just like the Convention, stipulate that punishment by deprivation of liberty must be a last measure and for a short period of time. This fact is sanctioned by the Rules of Tokyo, known as "Minimum Standards and Rules of the U.N. regarding non-custodial measures".

According to the documents above, deprivation of liberty for the minor should be based on the principle of rehabilitation.

A special problem often created by arrest of under-aged criminals is separating them from the rest of the prisoners, the law stating that they should be separated from adults.

The present Romanian legislation makes no difference between slots for minor and adult prisoners (art. 480 of the Penal Procedure Code.). This is the main way to ensure a good protection of the minors' rights while in detention. This fact aims at two directions of action:

1. To ensure child protection against exploitation, abuse or negative influence from the adults;
2. To ensure that the minors benefit of all conditions and facilities necessary for development and upbringing..

In Romania, there are only three detention units for minors at this time, all subordinated to the General Direction of Penitentiaries. So we have a juvenile

prison in Craiova and to reeducation centers for minors, one in Tichilesti (next to Braila) and one in Gaesti (next to Pitesti)).

These reeducation centers for minors are actually military units with a structure similar to one of a prison, having both military and civilian personnel. The capacity of these centers is about 2000 people but alongside each one of these centers there are several pavilions and a number of adults carrying out certain household activities.

The Romanian legislation does not respect the standards set by international treaties, approved by Romania, regarding deprivation of liberty for minors.

8. Governmental programs

The first measures taken by the Government regarding building a proper environment for youth development and removing the disturbing factors, which means ensuring a family environment – either the one of origin, or an institutional or complementary one – and integrating the children/young people in the educational system with the obligatory 10 grades. Programs were founded that make the civil society aware of the children's needs of integration in a family environment, programs that give financial support for the young people integrated in the educational system by the school allowances and not least, founding of youth information and counseling centers, meant to reduce the number of children that enter the residential system and the ones that drop out of school.

► with external financing

1. The "Project for reform in the child protection program 1999-2001" – financed by BIRD (5 mil. USD), BDCE (10 mil. EURO) and other donors (14 mil. USD).

Consists of:

- Development of services/restructuring of institutions
- The "Homeless children" initiative
- Monitoring and evaluation component

Within this program 90 projects were financed, containing 182 community services for child protection in 37 districts. Out of these, 85 sub-projects are functional consisting of 165 community services of child protection. Also 5 youth information centers were founded and coordinated for the homeless children in Iasi, Constanta, Timis, Brasov and Cluj.

2. The PHARE 9905.02 Program - 25 mil. EURO

Consists of:

- Creating and developing community services for child protection (19 mil. EURO)
- Technical assistance (2 mil. EURO)
- The advertising campaign meant to prevent abandonment (2,6 million Euros)

- The Twinning component in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (1 million Euros)

The program ended on November 30 2003. By implementing the grant scheme 141 alternative child protection services were created, 29 major old institutions were shut down, 673 professional maternal assistants were recruited and formed, 820 children given to them, 715 reintegrated in their natural families.

3. The Phare RO 0104.01 Program - 13,7 million Euros

Consists in:

- The advertising campaign meant to prevent abandonment and institutionalization of children "Casa de Copii nu e Acasă" – 'The orphanage is not home' (1,21 million Euro)
- The advertising campaign meant to prevent child abuse and domestic violence among children "Bătătorul" – The Beater (1 million Euros)
- The advertising campaign meant to prevent conflicts and drug use among young people "Umbre" - Shadows (1,4 million Euros)
- Creation and development of community services to protect the children (10,9 million Euros)

Results:

- The campaign "Casa de Copii nu e Acasă" – 10 TV spots, 8 radio spots, 6 press models and 4 campaigns for street publicity
- The campaigns "Bătătorul" and "Umbre" – TV spots, realized in cooperation with McCann Erickson were awarded in the years 2001 and 2002 and broadcasted at prime-time on 5 national TV stations
- Over 220 children, victims of abuse received psycho-social assistance
- 140 teachers were trained in identification and reporting cases of abuse
- 50 specialists from 23 public institutions and non-governmental institutions trained and involved in reporting and involvement

4. The Romanian American partnership in the field of child protection 2001-2005.

The American Government offers financial support for this program, through USAID, the allocated funds are 15 million USD. The American contractor of the ChildNet program is World Learning. The general purpose of the program is sustaining the reform in the Romanian child protection system.

The ChildNet program operates mostly on two major components:

- the finance program (8 million USD)
- the technical assistance program (7 million USD)

Other activities within the program regarded establishment of community boards, promotion of the social assistant profession, development of active NGO's capacity in the field of child protection, HIV/AIDS testing of children in orphanages.

5. The program of cooperation with UNICEF. Based on the memorandum of understanding signed between ANPCA and UNICEF, worth 3,562 thousand USD, refers to the priorities identified in the Governmental Strategy in the field of protecting the children in difficulty 2001-2004.

In order to identify the level of reform on level of each district and sector of the city of Bucharest, within the program of cooperation of ANCPA and UNICEF, between 2003 – may 2004, a contract was ran following "The evaluation of the child protection reform in Romania", ended by the final report of the investigation. The director committee of the project is going to decide on the implementation ways of the report. Meanwhile, a National Plan of Action is in course of development, regarding the shrinking of existent gaps in implementing the reform program.^{xiii}

Although governmental initiatives exist, and even programs in the field of child protection and juvenile delinquency prevention, they are faintly made public and without an active involvement of the civil society they cannot achieve the best results. A more tight cooperation between different institutions of the state following to prevent conflicts among young people and social, economic and cultural aspects of their lives, should share their resources in order to develop sustained programs, both means of prevention as well as ways to stop delinquency, and to ensure a continuity by providing extra services of assistance and counseling.

► internally financed during the period of time 2001-2004

1. "Caravan of prevention" – purpose: youth education in the anti-criminal field, increased degree of personal safety, drug use prevention, counsel in searching and obtaining a job.

Area of activity: The city of Bucharest and counties.

Partners: The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Infotin county branches, compartments of delinquent prevention on county level

2. "Dura lex-program for behavior forming" - purpose: anti-criminal education of the youth, development of a right civic behavior and establishment of a system of values according to legal and moral standards.

Area of activity: The city of Bucharest and counties.

Partners: The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Local County police inspectorates, M.E.C. and school inspectorates

3. "Teenage without crime" - purpose: prevention of under-aged people from involving in crimes

Area of activity: The city of Bucharest and counties.

Partners: Infotin, The Ministry of Education and Research, The Ministry of Internal Affairs

4. "Let us expel violence" – purpose: prevention of crimes within school perimeter

Area of activity: The city of Bucharest and counties.

Partners: Local county police inspectorates, The Ministry of Education and Research, school inspectorates^{xiv}

8. Nongovernmental programs

1. "Drugs break your wings!"

The continuously rising number of teens that have an unhealthy lifestyle for themselves and everyone else, mostly as a result of inefficient information, called for the development of education and health programs in elementary schools and high schools in Romania.

During the last years, drugs became a serious problem for parents, specialists and society in general. According to the survey conducted in March 2001 by the **Save the Children Organization** in cooperation with the **Direction of Public Health of Bucharest**, in 99 high schools from Bucharest, approximately 10% of the students have consumed illegal drugs at least once in their life. As a consequence of these alarming results, Save the Children initiated, between January 2003 and 14th of June 2003, the "Drugs break your wings!" (Drogurile iti curma zborul!) campaign in elementary schools and high schools. The purpose of this project was to increase the level of information that students have regarding the negative effects of drugs on their health by holding classes to inform-educate during the civic education classes, by training teachers, counselors responsible for education in educational institutions, by spreading informational material throughout the schools and high schools, offices of psycho-pedagogic assistance, on the streets, in crowded places.

2. The Global Initiative to Forbid Physical Punishment

Launched in April 2001, The Global Initiative to forbid any kind of punishment for children wishes to speed-up the process of forbidding physical punishment all over the world, including in Romania. The Global Initiative sets out to form a strong alliance of agencies defending the human rights, of important people with the power to make decisions and nongovernmental organizations fighting against physical punishment.

Also, one of the main objectives is to make public the physical punishment that children are subject to, by development of maps showing their incidence and the ways that they are treated by judicial systems in different countries, making sure that the children's voices can be heard and that there is progress in this field.

The program financed by the SOS Childhood Foundation, in cooperation with the Save the Children organization have decided to offer assistance and details to all institutions interested in supporting these reforms.

3. The Social Mediation and Communication initiated a series of programs, dedicated to several categories of age, in order to improve the situation that children in difficulty have. Among these we find:

"BALTHAZAR"- clubs of out-of-school activities in deprived environments.

These offer the possibility for 2000 children to get involved in 24 activities that take place inside the club, among them are camps, trips, celebrations and expositions. Monthly, training sessions take place to develop and coordinate club activities.

Within a project for conflict prevention among the young people, the Balthazar clubs have organized activities of mediation between colleagues in 12 elementary schools in the rural environment.

"Drama in education"

Over 500 children and teenagers were included in this program from 17 schools and 10 high schools. The shows displayed, based on dramatized youth problems, and gathered over 300 spectators, children and parents, within a month.

The program continues with plays celebrating special holidays such as Halloween, Christmas, Saint Valentine, etc.

"Road Theater"

Shows of the Road Theater, destined for children of pre-school age and students in elementary-school, were held in 16 schools and kindergartens from the rural environment. With this occasion 32 teachers attended workshops meant to develop the capacity to stimulate children in expressing their personality in the artistic field.

4. "Children come first"

As a part of the PHARE 1999 program (25 mil. Euro) of assistance for the child protection system and reforms in this field in Romania, PLS Ramboll Management, (a cooperation between PLS Ramboll, Save the Children – Denmark and Bradley Dunbar) received the rank of Central Technical Assistance.

Evaluated at the sum of 1.789.900 Euro, the contract begun at the date of May 3rd 2001 and was going to last for 16 months. In the end the period of the contract was 29 months and its value rose to 1.998.900 Euro.

The purpose of the contract was to offer Technical Assistance and Monitoring for the projects within the grant component of the project. The activities included:

- The evaluation of grant applications
- The assistance awarded to grant beneficiaries

-the monitoring of project activities developed by grant beneficiaries^{xv}

Involvement of nongovernmental organizations is welcome in the terms of amplified delinquency in deprived environments and among young people from orphanages. The possibility of accessing some national and international grants to organize programs aiming at young people transforms the organizational environment in one of real interest for the development of the Romanian society.

10. S.W.O.T. analysis

Strong points

- Development and diversification of the means of intervention in order to prevent abandonment and reduce the rate of institutionalization through programs internationally financed.
- Prevent of abuse and neglect of the child, of any kind, as well as the phenomena that can determine difficulties for the child by foundation of ANPCA and involvement of other ministries.
- Legislative measures that encourage the civil society to integrate young people in its educational, occupational and sanitary structures.
- The publicizing of children's rights and making the public more sensible by street advertising campaigns and mass-media
- Encouraging and developing a non-formal education by implementing programs initiated by nongovernmental organizations, supported by the government and other international authorities

Weak points

- Lack of concordance between the legislation and national practices regarding the children in difficulty and the standards set by international treaties accepted by Romania
- No professionalism for the human resources in the system and low possibilities to train them
- Low number of nongovernmental organizations in the rural environment, supporting the implementation of governmental programs
- Reduced involvement of the youth in development and implementation of public youth policies
- The balance between funds and quality of services for young people in difficulty

Opportunities

- ⇒ Increased percentage of involvement of international authorities (UNICEF, World Bank, BDCE) and of other European governments in sustaining the reform in the field of social youth policies
- ⇒ Improvement of the minimal standards, respectively professional and administrative standards by maximal use of available international funds
- ⇒ Development of a credit system on a national level for nongovernmental organizations that start activities in the field of child protection

- ⇒ Prevention of abandonment and encouraging adoptions, like so reducing the expenses of residential institutions
- ⇒ Establishment of a national volunteer system as an alternative to obligatory military status and punishment for young people who committed petty crimes

Threats

- ◆ Increase of the discrimination and social separation phenomenon due to failed reintegration of young people in difficulty
- ◆ Rise of juvenile delinquency due to social and economic conflicts
- ◆ Higher numbers of drug users and STD contaminations among the young people that have no access to the educational system
- ◆ Increase of child abandonment due to lack of measures to support young families
- ◆ Lack of efficiency in the application of national programs in the field of juvenile delinquency, where there is no evolved structure in the rural environment.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

According to the National Plan of Action 2001-2004, assuring and respecting the children's rights and placing them in a zone of real interest has made a national priority. The programs initiated by the Romanian government in this period of time were meant to improve the present condition of the youth.

Still, when talking about conflicts among young people, the governmental measures are yet to be seen. Even if Romania does not face youth problems with armed assaults or use of weapons in dangerous environments, preventing social conflicts caused by poverty, lack of education and of counseling services, conditions that favor the apparition of social tension.

Governmental measures regarding adapting international methods of prevention for abandonment and juvenile delinquency and using them with the help of better trained international authorities, supporting the young involved in volunteer services by making access to professional programs more easy, and legislative measures in the tax field to determine the civil society in giving financial support to the governmental programs of non-formal education might be starting points in reducing other phenomena such as:

- reduced expenses for the institutionalization of young people, by preventing and discouraging abandonment, and use of existent resources for a higher quality of offered services and a greater percentage of young people involved in development and implementation of public youth policies, by development of the volunteer service as an alternative to obligatory military service.

Development of a national crediting system for nongovernmental organizations allowing a strong network in the rural environment, to sustain governmental programs and implementation of other programs of their own, as well as use of international funds to improve the minimal standards and training of human resources in the field. These are necessary actions in order to continue the activity in this domain, in harmony with the international provisions.

Creation of a coherent system, based on preventing conflicts, economic support of families in difficulty, removal of factors that determine subculture environments, encouragement of educations among less favored young people and the ones of gypsy origin, would certainly lead to a higher efficiency of the actions already started. Not least, a tighter relation between the governmental environment and that of organizations, might stimulate a better access to internal and external funds in order to create educational alternatives, develop the principle of non-formal education and direct involvement of the young people in elaborating youth policies.

Presently, only the measures to fight juvenile delinquency are not sufficient, as they are not programs leading towards the education of a non-violent character, as early as elementary school, and even earlier in the family environment.

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6. Governmental Emergency Order no.12/2001
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8. Order 653/25.09.2001 published in the Official Journal no. 777/05 December 2001
9. Penal Procedure Code
10. The National Strategy for Helping Young People in Difficulty 2001-2004 – The Agency for Governmental Strategies www.publicinfo.ro
11. The UN Convention – Approved by Romania by the law no. 18/1990

Other information from these websites has ben used:

www.just.ro – Ministry of Justice

www.anpca.ro – National Association for Protection and Child Adoption

www.salvaticopii.ro/www.salvaticopii.is.ro - "Save the Children" Organization – Branch from Iași

www.csme.ro - Centrul de Mediere Socială și Comunicare

www.insse.ro – National Statistics Institute

www.europa.eu.int – European Commission

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The UN Convention, Children rights, Art.3

ⁱⁱ The UN Convention, Children rights, Art.3

ⁱⁱⁱ The UN Convention, Children rights, Art.7

^{iv} The National Strategy for Helping the Youth in Difficulty 2001-2004

^v The stated principles are accordingly to the national and international priorities in this field and are found in The National Strategy for Helping the Youth in Difficulty 2001-2004

^{vi} Governmental Emergency Order no.12/2001 that regulates the NAPCA activity

^{vii} Information from the Ministry of Justice website - www.just.ro -

^{viii} Government Decision no.539, published in the Official Journal no. 321/14 June 2001

^{ix} The Education Law no. 84 from the 24th of July 1995, republished in the Official Journal no. 606/10 December 1999

^x Order 653 from the 25th of September 2001, published in the Official Journal no. 777/05 December 2001, Part I

^{xi} Government Decision no 1504 from the 16th of September 2004, published in the Official Journal no. 874/27 September 2004, Part I

^{xii} Penal Procedure Code, Art.143, Art.480, Art.481

^{xiii} Information taken from the NAPCA website - www.anpca.ro -

^{xiv} Information from the Activity Report 2000-2004 – The Institute for Criminal Research and Prevention

^{xv} Annual Report of activity 2001 - NAPCA



Written by Roxana David
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1. Leisure-Time Activities
2. **What is leisure-time?**
3. **The Legislation regarding the leisure-time**
4. **The main leisure-time activities**
5. **Programmes and initiatives regarding the leisure-time**
6. **SWOT Analysis**
7. **Conclusions. Perspectives upon the leisure-time**
8. **Bibliography**

1. Leisure-Time Activities

Romania's transition from the centralized economy to the market economy had a powerful impact upon the life-styles of people in Romania. The waking up from the lassitude-like atmosphere induced by the Communist regime had different effects upon the Romanian citizens: some feel it is too late to make changes anymore and others believe it is a good occasion to emphasize their abilities. For some of the Romanians, the rhythm of the change is a nightmare, for others, it is a provocation.

Today's Romanian society has the appearance of a contrast-governed environment, from despair to joy, from extreme pessimism to absolute optimism, from fury to gratitude, from passive attitudes to active attitudes, from daydream to acute pragmatism.

Three categories of life-styles comprising eight segments can be identified:

1. ***The life-style orientated towards the past:*** the survivors (19%) and the Passive Traditionalists (21%). The ones who have these life-styles generally belong to the elderly generation, which meets adaptation difficulties to the current changes. These persons are characterized by inertia and passive attitude. These ones have low incomes and have a hard time surviving in a world where their old values (tied to the Communist propaganda) seem to be meaningless. Many of them are nostalgic for "the good times of the Socialism".
2. ***The life-style orientated towards the present time:*** a-temporal (12%), traditionalist family men (7%) and sophisticated family men (10%). This life-style comprises the persons who focus upon the present trying to solve the immediate problems. Until now, these persons outfaced the changes although their life-style somehow depreciated in the last few years. They rely upon family and God to find their internal equilibrium. They express a moderate optimism, but they also have a feeling of anxiety towards the future.
3. ***The life-style orientated towards the future:*** the aspirants (10%), the imitators (9%), the ambitious (12%). This life-style comprises the persons who find the change as an opportunity of personal evolution on the social level. These ones are young, trustful and have the ability of quick adaptation. The main motivating factors for their actions are the money, the career and the success. They express optimism regarding their future.

Our life-style, our conceptions, our aspirations and our habits influence our behavior in every situation, including our leisure-time.

2 What is leisure-time?

The leisure-time is the remaining time after an individual carried out all the professional and scholastic tasks, all the tasks pertaining from satisfying the need of knowledge, and of relaxation, and, in the case of the young who follows the courses of an educational institution, after the courses and after finishing their homework. The time allocation for each activity varies from individual to individual, depending on the individual's personality, friends, habits, influences etc. The leisure-time also comprises those projects and extracurricular activities accomplished as voluntary service by the students, the young people. The leisure-time activities are generally analyzed from three points of view according to the functions of the leisure-time: the relaxation function, the amusement function and the function of developing the personality.

The last evaluations of the leisure-time extent in Romania were made by The National Institute of Statistics. Considering the leisure-time as the "the remaining time of the 24 of hours after the effectuation of the personal care, of the income requested activities, of the labor in house-keeping" it was concluded that, for 10 years old population and more, the leisure-time extent is:

Category	Hours/day
Male	5,1
Female	4,2
Urban	5,4
Rural	3,8
The total of 10 years old population and more	4,7

Source: The use of leisure-time in Romania, The National Institute of Statistics

The life-style of the Romanians has a big influence upon their manner of using the leisure-time. According to a study made by the National Agency for Youth, the young people prefer to spend the leisure-time watching television, meeting their friends, or dealing with housekeeping activities. Their importance is changing from year to year, but only the main activities remain the same. Generally, the young people have more free time than the other categories of people. This helps them getting involved in various activities with artistic or sportive character and in volunteer activities developed in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations.

3 The Legislation regarding the leisure-time

The leisure-time and its allocation, especially for the young people, is also regulated throughout legislative measures, especially by The Law of Education. Thus, the extracurricular activities developed in the educational institutions are financed by the Ministry of Education and Research, encouraging the children with outstanding educational results. Clubs and specific champs (scientific, sportive, artistic, ecological, humanitarian, civic champs) can be created and be financed by the state.

Other legislative measures referring to the leisure-time:

Governments' Decision no. 2137/30 November 2004 concerning the structure and the functioning of the National Agency for Champs and Scholastic Tourism and its territorial agencies, published in the Official Paper Part I no1213/17 December 2004.

The main provisions of this Governments' Decision refer to the organizing and the administration of the scholar and of the organizing of other activities with social implications by a public institution subordinated to the National Authority for Youth.

The Directions no. 1113/21 February 2003 concerning the dispatch in camps of the children of the persons referred to by the Law no. 42/1990 regarding the honoring of the heroes and the giving of rights to their offspring.

Governments' Decision no. 198/28 February 2002 concerning the establishment of the National Agency for Supporting Young People's Initiatives, under the provisions of the art. 107 of the Constitution of Romania and the provisions of art. 55 and 56 of the Law no. 90/2001 regarding the structure and the functioning of the Government of Romania and the ministries. The main responsibilities of the Agency are to support the young people, to offer assistance and specialized counseling, to offer research and voluntaries programmes, to stimulate the creativeness of the young, to promote the mobility of youth in the European states, to initialize and organize experience exchanges, debates, symposiums, scientific sessions of communications, to manage public funds and funds attracted from national or international organizations, to promote activities of formation and perfecting in the area of the non-formal education for youth and to specialized the workers from this area of activity in the measure initiation for developing of the young people.

4. The main leisure-time activities

The main leisure-time activities of the Romanians are: watching television, reading the reviews and the newspapers, reading books, using the computer and the Internet, watching shows and films, making excursions and travels etc.

The study made by Daedalus Consulting in March 2003, shows that the young people (people between 18 and 24 years old) spent more time listening to the music (36.6% of an average of 24.3%), using the computer (24.4% of an average of 8.6%), or watching films on video/ DVDs/ computer (10.6% of an average of 4.3%).

(We underline that the above-mentioned poll was made on the Internet. Therefore, the given data are submitted to a substantial possibility of inconsistency).

Watching TV programs is the main leisure-time activity, responding to the necessity of relaxation and/or recreation as well as to the interest in informing and personality development.

The weight of the persons who watch TV in their leisure-time, as it comes out from the researches effectuated, vary according to the research sample: from the total population aged 7 and more, 93% watch TV, among which 75%, daily (Source: ACOVI investigation, 2001, The National Institute of Statistics); in the year of the research effectuation, 65% of the population had color TV sets at home.

In Romania, **reading the newspapers and the magazines** is another important leisure-time activity. The preoccupation for reading newspapers and magazines registered a decrease from the beginning of the '90. At that time, the interest was higher, probably because of the following reasons: the invasion of the newspapers and magazines was a novelty for the Romanians right after the end of the communist period; the living standard wasn't low enough to make, for certain categories of populations, a difficulty out of a newspapers and magazines buying habit; the economic problems and the unemployment caused an attitude less favorable to purchasing and reading of newspapers and magazines.

Reading newspapers and magazines	Persons, %
Daily, or almost daily	21.0
At least once a week	26.1
At least once a month	8.9
Scarcely	13.9
Never	30.1

Source: The ACOVI investigation, 2001, The National Institute of Statistics

Reading books, as a leisure-time activity, decreased in importance after 1989. According to the latest available statistic data, reading books is a preoccupation for 21% of the population of 10 years or more, therefore also including the students. (Source: The ACOVI investigation, 2001, The National Institute of Statistics)

The computer and the Internet generate preoccupations for the working time and also for the leisure-time. In Romania, the phenomenon is of a certain novelty, computers beginning to infiltrate the society after 1990, and the Internet, after 1993. The endowment with computers evolved quickly although the high costs slow down their acquisition by institutions, as well as by individuals. The Internet is one of the youth main communication channel and it is used, by the majority, at least once a week.

Watching/listening shows and cinematographs frequentation are low rate leisure-time activities for the Romanians: 18% go to the cinema and 10% go to the theatre (Source: The ACOVI investigation, 2001, The National Institute of Statistics). The main reasons for which young Romanians generally don't go to this type of shows are: the television's competition, the decrease of the living standard, the change of the population's state of mind and preoccupations. Beginning with 1998, the audience of the theatres and the operas increased together with the number of shows. To the revival of this cultural activity also contributed the specialized private institutions and the adapting of the repertory to the audience's expectations.

How do young people spend their evening? (Spontaneous answers):

Activity	%
Watching TV	34
At home, with the family	32
Outside, with the friends	10
Resting	3
Reading	2
Other activities	18

**The
week
end
excursions
and
long**

trips are strongly affected by the low living standard. In Romania, a category of population with financial possibilities for making trips but no interest gradually was appeared along with another, which has financial possibilities only for weekend trips and/or countryside trips. The main possibilities of spending the

leisure-time during the weekend are: 63.2% of the persons watched TV (more than 3 hours), 51.8% had housekeeping activities, 46.9% rest, 41.9% went shopping and 35.2% cooked.

The time-allocation for activities during the weekend:

On Saturday, until 2PM, the majority of the persons spent the leisure-time solving one housekeeping tasks (39.9%), shopping (34.4%) or cooking (23.3%). It is more likely that the young people spent more time listening to the music (23.6% of the average of 13%) and less time doing housework (29.9% of an average of 39.9%), shopping (22.2% of an average of 34.4%) or cooking (7.1 of an average of 23.3%).

On Saturday, after 2PM, the majority of the persons spent their leisure-time watching TV (42.9%), doing housekeeping work (22.2%) or resting (21%).

On Sunday, until 2PM, the majority of the persons spent their leisure-time watching TV (19.3%), shopping (13%), doing housekeeping work (12.6%) or making trips outside the city (12.6%). The females and the retired persons spent more time cooking (20.4%, respectively 18.8% of an average of 12.2%) and going to the Church (16.1%, respectively 19% of an average of 11.6%).

On Sunday afternoon, the majority of people spent their leisure-time watching TV (44.6%), resting (28.8%) or with friends (21.6%). It more likely that the elder persons (58% of the persons between 55 and 65 years old, respectively 52.9% of the persons between 45 and 54 years old, of an average of 44.6%) watched TV.

The Government of Romania, through The Ministry of Education and Research, yearly offers the students with good educational results free camps with duration of 7 days and food included. These camps take place during the winter holidays (in December) and also during the summer holidays (in the July-August period).

5. Programmes and initiatives regarding the leisure-time

The Ministry of Education and Research offers a programme of intercultural exchanges for the young people, entirely financed by the State under the condition of returning to Romania and working in the public administration for 3 to 5 years, depending on the number of years of the grant as well as of its quantum.

Clubs with specific character are founded in the educational units for developing recreational activities: photography clubs, dance clubs, chorus, sports clubs, theatre clubs, etc. Usually, these clubs are founded at the initiative of the non-governmental organizations.

The National Authority for Youth settled an agreement with the Center for Environmental Initiative and the National Federation "Leo Lagrange" of France, to transform the scholar camps into real holidays centers. For instance, in some camps varied sports can be practiced, in others, singing and drawing will be possible. Unfortunately, this was not achieved until now.

The nongovernmental organizations are involved in the recreational activities of the young people, organizing each year cultural events, such as the UNIFEST, which lasts a week, in November. During this week, the students have free entrance to museums and theatres.

The nongovernmental organizations for youth and students associations, as well as the institutions responsible with the grants offer intercultural exchanges for the holidays' period.

Social-recreational programmes support the youth, but the putting into act of these programmes also meet difficulties, especially financial problems. If in the urban environment more funds are allocated, in the rural environment the situation is much worse: the majority of the local houses of culture were closed and youth associations exist only in few little villages and communes.

The young people living in the urban areas, as well as the ones living in total areas do not beneficiate of a lot of cultural-recreational programmes, choosing to watch TV, to meet their friends or to take care of the housekeeping. They have a lot of free time that should be spent with this kind of activities.

A series of communication campaigns were developed, especially using television spots, outdoors activities and concerts. This way, reduced finance campaigns were developed on the use of the safety belt when driving, preventing the familial violence, the selection of the TV programs for the young people under 18, as this programs have a high social and formative role. Such an example is the anti-drug campaign.

Another example of such a programme is "Students Spring". In the period 14-18 April 2003, in Bucharest, the "Students Spring" festival took place under the

slogan “Culture at Day-time, Fun at Night”. It was organized by the Association of the Students from the University of Bucharest, and it was structured on the following themes: literature, painting, sculpture, photography, caricatures, and numismatics. The most successful was the literature section, as the large number of participating works and their quality shows.

Another event developed at national level, that has as target the leisure-time activities is UNIFEST. The UNIFEST was first organized in 2001 as the Festival of the Students from Bucharest. It had a great success between the young people and it was extended at the national level. Thus, the UNIFEST 2003 was kept in 17 university centers all over the country with the involvement of over 200,000 students. The UNIFEST is centered on culture, sports and entertainment and their promotion between the young people. Taking place under the slogan “Entertainment for free, not for nothing”, which already became a reality, UNIFEST has the target of reunite students all over the country and to offer them pleasant moments as well as cultural dynamic activities specific to their age.

6. SWOT Analysis

- From the point of view of the leisure-time allocation, the main **strengths** are:
 - The resource – the young people have a lot of free time;
 - The high interest for sports related activities and high involvement rate in sports related associations (reflected by the large number of sports clubs at the national level);
 - The average availability of participating at various activities organized by the public institutions and the NGOs (for example, The Week of Cleanliness, National Anthem’s Day - contests, competitions);
 - Relatively large areas available for recreational activities in the open.
- From the point of view of the leisure-time allocation, the main weaknesses are:
 - The lack of attractive extracurricular activities – the majority of such activities are imposed or there is a reduced choice (usually, there are no dissemination channels);
 - The exaggerated interest for the low-quality mass-media products – too much time spent watching TV instead of developing informational activities or involving in voluntary activities;

- The poor infrastructure for recreational activities specific to the young people preoccupation, such as gyms, clubs, laboratories having as destination the extracurricular activities;
 - The poor endowment of the sports centres and their maladjustment for a large range of activities;
 - The lack of permanent ways of transportation to the recreational areas;
 - The insufficiency of the youth initiatives.
- The main opportunities for a good revaluation of the leisure-time:
- ⇒ The accomplishment of a well-defined framework for the organization of attractive extracurricular activities;
 - ⇒ The promotion of the partnerships between the public institutions and the civil society in order to reevaluate the shared potential;
 - ⇒ The development of public-private partnerships in order to assure the proper spaces for the recreational activities.
- The main threats are:
- ◆ The lack of social revaluation of the available time resources of the young people through offering attractive and diverse activities for the young people;
 - ◆ The promotion of a values system, values which are impaired especially by the teachers that do not accept the new aspirations of the youth;
 - ◆ The cultural or social isolation present at the individual-group level and the indifference towards the others together with the reorientation of the young people towards themselves;
 - ◆ The deterioration of the green spaces and of the recreational areas in the open, which represent the place of development for a large number of activities;
 - ◆ The development of the antisocial behaviours;
 - ◆ The proliferation of the neighbourhoods gangs and of the bad-influence groups;
 - ◆ The consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs inside or outside the educational units;
 - ◆ The increase of the juvenile delinquency rate.

7. Conclusions. Perspectives upon the leisure-time

The large majority of the young people spend their leisure-time watching TV, reading magazines and newspapers, reading books, using the computer and the Internet, watching shows or films, making trips, etc.

The study made by Daedalus Consulting in March 2003 shows that the youth (persons between 18 and 24 years old) spend more time listening to the music (36.6% of an average of 24.3%), using the computer/playing on computer (24.4% of an average of 8.6), going downtown (17.3% of an average of 5.4) or watching movies on video / DVDs / computer (10.6% of an average of 4.3%). The Internet and the computer have had a strong influence upon the young people. The time allocated for this activity increased during the last period.

The events organized by the nongovernmental organizations proved to be benefic for the young, events such as UNIFEST, The Students Spring or the anti-drug campaign, as well as many others. These events have an informative role and offer alternatives for the leisure-time spending.

The Governmental measures also play an important role, offering alternatives by organizing free students camps and other possibilities.

During the last 4 years, an increase of the young people's interest in voluntary activities could be noticed, activities developed throughout the students organizations and the youth organizations.

As for the extracurricular activities, these are defectively organized and do not permit the access of all the young people. There is lack of information regarding the extracurricular activities and an opened but at same time closed attitude regarding the development of this leisure-time spending alternative.

The main problems regarding the leisure-time activities are the lack of possible activities, the reduction of the green areas, the reduced variety of extracurricular activities and the old-fashioned mentality of the teachers. The young people have more leisure-time than other categories of people, but this free time is not fully valorized, the young preferring to watch TV or use the computer instead of involving in diverse extracurricular activities.

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1. Gender problems in the internal environment
2. Legislative measures
3. Measures to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
4. Gender Stereotypes in Romanian Media
5. Governmental Programs
6. S.W.O.T Analysis
7. Conclusions
8. Bibliography

1. Gender Problems in the internal environment

Romania ratified the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on January 7, 1982. Also, Romania signed the Optional Protocol to CEDAW on September 6, 2000, and ratified it in June 2000. The first reports sent to U.N. under the CEDAW convention, that covered what had taken place from 1992 up to 1998, were submitted as a single document in March 1999.

With increasing interest in preventing discrimination against women, the government set up a Department for the Co-ordination of the Labor Market and Wage Policy, including since 1999 a direction for equal opportunities. The latter's overall objective is to protect women's rights and implement gender mainstreaming in the current social policies of Romania.

According to this department the main problems women from Romania confront with are:

- Domestic violence
- Human traffic and prostitution
- Problems regarding reproduction health
- Social exclusion of the single women
- Discrimination against the Roma women
- Maternal death phenomenon

According to the last evaluation on the stable residential population of Romania, in March 2002, there are 21.698.181 inhabitants, out of which 48,8 % (representing 10.581.350 inhabitants) are male and 51,2% (representing 11.116.831 inhabitants) female, the sex ratio being estimated at 1,051 female/1,000 male. As compared with 1992 the weight of the female population slightly increased with 0,4%, from 50,8% to 51,2%, whereas the male population decreased with 632 thousand, in the last ten years.

	2002		1992		2002 in-%- as compared to 1992
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Total population	21.698.181	100.0	22.810.035	100.0	95.8*

Female	11.116.831	51.2	11.596.272	50.8	95.9
Male	10.581.350	48.8	11.213.763	49.2	94.4

* Calculations made under conditions of comparability

Following the statistics and starting from the main problems that female population deal with in the social, political and economic environment, the governmental authorities have decided to promote policies that encourage young women to create, maintain and to develop the familial relationship. The policy focuses on three main directions: families with small children, marriage and family relations, and the balance between work and family. The measures envisaged include:

1. Creating a network of family support offices aimed to sustain and consolidate the family as a fundamental entity of society by:

- family assistance, which includes financial aid and services to support intra and inter family relations, including support for single-parent families

- to set up a national family planning program, designed to help improve the care given to mothers and children, including information, education and communicational activities, professional training of medical personnel, all of which will consolidate the reproductive health services particularly in isolated areas.

2. Conducting campaigns to inform parents about the way to tackle the main issues cropping up in the family

3. Identifying families in distress and granting the necessary assistance as soon as possible

4. Measures to inform and sensitize employees, employers, trade unions and civil servants having responsibilities in the areas where the labor legislation applies about the national legislation's provisions that correspond to the *acquis communautaire*.

5. Applying the principle of equal treatment for women and men with respect to employment, professional training and promotion, and work conditions

6. The Government should adopt the bill on the protection of motherhood

2. Legislative measures

1. Constitutional Provisions

The effective application of the equal opportunity between men and women principle is realized in Romania through the fundamental law, the Constitution, which stipulates in its first article: „Romania is the common and indivisible homeland of all its citizens regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, gender, opinion, political affiliation, wealth or social origin”ⁱ.

Romanian citizens are equal in front of the law and public authorities, without privileges and discriminationⁱⁱ. Also, it is stipulated the non discriminatory right to elect and to be electedⁱⁱⁱ as well as the right to education^{iv}.

Article 11, paragraph 2 of the constitution stipulates that the treaties ratified by the parliament, according to law, are part of the domestic law. However, few are the actions in justice where the parties claim a right recognized by an international Convention, and when this is pled for, it is usually the European Convention on Human Rights, which the media grants special importance lately, considering the decisions of the Strasbourg European Court of Human Rights.

2. Provisions in the Penal Code

Article 247 stipulates the abuse in office by limitation of some rights: „The limitation, by a public officer, of the use or exercise of some inferiority circumstances on grounds of nationality, race, sex or religion, shall be punished with imprisonment.”^v

Sexual harassment was introduced by article 203, item 1 in the Penal Code. Through sexual harassment it is understood sexual privilege inquiring, forced intimacy, words and aggrieved gestures with the purpose of intimidating the victim.

The Romanian Parliament adopted the Law No. 197 from November 13, 2000, for the amendment of some provisions of the Penal Code. For the first time in the Romanian legislation express provisions related to the sanction of family violence acts were sanctioned.

3. Special Laws

The National Council for the Eradication of Discrimination was set up by Government Decision no. 1194 in November 27th 2001. This governmental body started its activity in August 2002. Since then The Council received over 100 complaints on behalf of the citizens. Among the categories of discrimination that the Council was made aware of we mention: the low age of employment, the differentiated treatment between women and men at the working place, including

the access to leadership position, discrimination against Roma, discrimination against persons with disabilities. Besides its attributions concerning the administrative sanctioning of all forms of discrimination, the new body aims at developing, in partnership with the civil society, large campaigns to prevent discriminations and to publicize its competencies in the field.

3. Measures to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

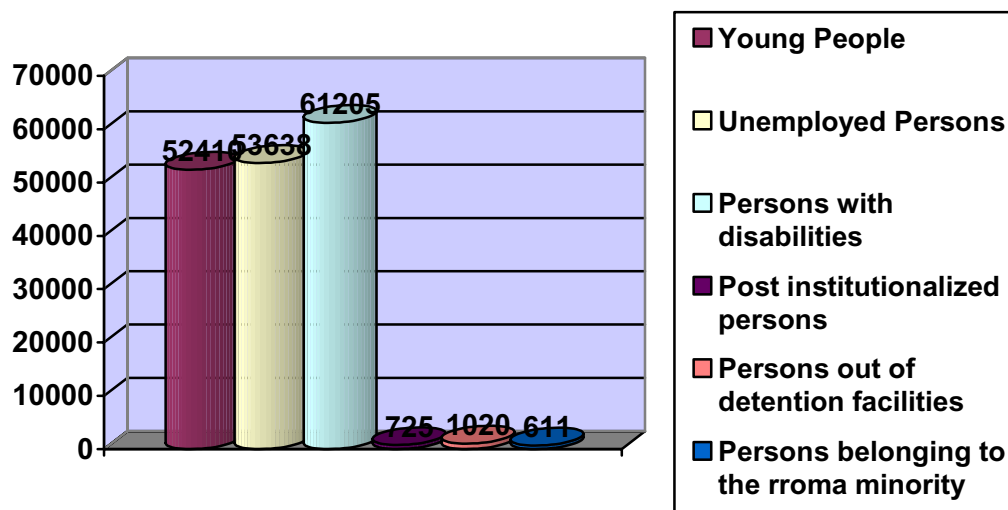
The National Plan for Employment for 2002-2004

While setting up the National Plan for Employment, The National Agency for Employment followed closely some objectives:

- increasing the employment and decreasing the unemployment
- increasing the number of active measures for combating unemployment
- using efficiently the budget of the unemployment insurance

The program envisages, also, giving jobs to 53.410 women, from which 29.414 young women, 10.114 graduates women, 2350 women belonging to the Roma minority. Summing up, there were offered 172.959 jobs for the next categories of population, considered disadvantaged:

- women
- young people
- unemployed persons
- persons with disabilities
- persons out of detention facilities
- persons belonging to the Roma minority
- other categories



Women's Organizations have been set up within the trade union confederations. Over time, they developed into departments for equal opportunities. Their activity is primarily focused on the promotion of equal rights for women and men at work. The Romanian legislation in the field of safety and health at work contains provisions having as object the implementation of measures to promote the improving security and health at work of pregnant, confined and nursing women employees, group considered vulnerable to certain risks. The general norms of labor protection stipulate that since employment to set up for pregnant and nursing women, following medical examination, a work place compatible with their physiological state, avoiding their exposure to harmful or toxic environments.

The insured women are entitled for 126 calendar days to pregnancy or childbed leave, during this period benefiting from a maternity benefit, according to the law no. 19/200, article 118. The same law, mention at article 121 that the insured persons, mothers or fathers, are entitled to a leave or benefit with a view to grow up the child up to the age of 2 years and, in case of a child with disabilities, up to the age of 3 years. One of the parents benefits, by request, from a benefit for the child growth or for a sick childcare, if the applicant meets the conditions regarding the insurance period established by the law; from the same rights benefits the insured persons who, according to the law, has adopted, was appointed as legal guardian or whom was entrusted children for growth and education.

Women must have non-discriminated access to choose and exercise freely their profession, equal incomes for an equal work, access to training programs and other benefits. The employers are obliged to ensure the equality of chances and treatment between employees, including by introducing provisions to interdict discriminations in the unit's regulation for the organization and functioning and internal order. Specific norms must be periodically revised in accordance with legislative and technical modifications at national and international level.

Human Traffic

Romania is country of origin and transit for internationally trafficked women and girls. Statistics referring only to identified victims indicate that 20% of the victims are aged between 13 and 15 years; 33% age 18-20; 23% age 21-23; 12% age 24-26; 4% age 27-29; 4% age 30 and over. Women aged between 18 and 26 and girls between 13 and 15, irrespective of their ethnicity, are more at risk to be trafficked.

The overwhelming majority of the victims are coming from Romania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldavia, Russian Federation. They are trafficked to Bosnia-Herzegovina (29%), FYROM (26%), Albania (17%), Kosovo-FRY (14%), Italy (6%), Cambodia (2%), other countries (6%). In the majority of the cases, victims are offered, via public advertising, lucrative jobs abroad (dancing, domestic service, tourism field), in Western countries. Employment, travel,

tourism agencies or marriage brokers have been detected as fronting for traffickers or crime groups to traffic individuals.

Romania, like other Central and Eastern European countries, is currently confronted with the challenge raised by the trafficking in human beings. The Romanian authorities adopted in the year 2001 the following legal instruments with the purpose of addressing this issue:

- The Law no. 678 on preventing and combating the trafficking in human beings
- The National Action Plan against trafficking in human beings, enforced by the Government Decision no. 1216/2002
- The Government Ordinance no.112/2001 on sanctioning offences committed outside the Romanian territory by Romanian citizens

During the year 2001, police investigated 391 persons (158 for pimping, 217 for prostitution, 16 for other crimes). It has been established that persons investigated had perpetrated a number of 336 crimes, but only 127 persons were convicted for pimping and 147 persons were convicted for prostitution.

Taking into account the fact that one of the causes of the trafficking in human beings is a rise in the request of prostitution services within the destination zone, either in Western Europe or in The Balkans, the local authorities must initiate more definite actions for reducing the „offer” and punish those who benefit from the presence of trafficked woman.

Comparative analysis and studies realized for the purpose of identifying the fundamental causes of trafficking in persons allowed the stand out of two causal categories:

- Internal causes (poverty, lack of workplace, social inequity, the desire for easy money)
- External causes (the existence of a big „demand” from the rich countries)

On the other hand it is known that the women chosen for trafficking in human beings are disadvantaged persons: women with a vulnerable status, poor and marginalized in societies, on which the social assistance programs did not work on. In consequence, the Romanian state should pay attention in order to decrease the phenomenon, and should apply the recommendation made by the European Union:

- Support, awareness and social mobilization against trafficking in women, but children also
- Building the partnerships between governmental and non-governmental organizations, communitarian structures and international agencies

- Direct assistance of sexual and reproductive health for population categories found in risk situations, as well as for victims of trafficking

Women involvement in decisional structures

Women remain under-represented in political life, with only 11% of members of Chamber of Deputies and 9% of members of Chamber of Senate, only 51 women were in the last structure of the Parliament of Romania, in comparison with 435 men. In the same Government 5 out of 28 cabinet ministers were woman and 8 out of 90 secretaries of state. The situation is presented better in 2004, when in the local election, in Bucharest, one of the parties had promoted only women for administrative structure, and for the presidential election the Romanian electors were surprised to see the first women to fight for the supreme position in state, unfortunately she quit before the first round of the November 2004 elections.

YEAR	Chamber of Deputies				Chamber of Senate			
	Number		Percentage		Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	F	M	F	M	F	M
1992	13	326	4	96	3	140	2	98
1996	25	315	7	93	2	141	1	99
2000	38	317	11	89	9	131	7	93

In order to accelerate the equality of chances between men and women, the central and local authorities have adopted stimulating measures related to the fair and balanced representation of men and women within the decision making authorities of the social partners, with observance of the competence criteria. According to the provisions of Law No. 188 of December 8th 1999, on the statute of the public officials, acceding to senior or junior civil service position is subject to a competitive selection, based on professional competence criteria, without any discrimination between men and women. The contest is publicly announced, open to all interested candidates, regardless of race, gender, religion or ethnic background. The Government ordinance no.26 of January 30th 2000 regarding the association and foundations do not stipulate any difference made by sex or any other kind of criteria.

Family Planning Services

According to Romanian Constitution from 1991, article 33, item (10), the Romanian State is responsible for the population health and to ensure hygiene and public health. In the same act it is proclaimed the equality of women and man in accessing public health services, including family planning services.

In Romania, since 1990, abortion is legal, on woman's request, family planning services (governmental and non-governmental) were developed at national level for health education and decreasing the high rate of abortion registered after 1990. Among the benefits of family planning services are decreasing maternal mortality and decreasing numbers of abandoned children.

Since 2001, for children less than 1 year of age free powder milk is assured. In the last 5 years special Health centers for Women were opened in different cities from Romania. This kind of centers offer services for prevention, early detection and treatment for infertility, genital and breast cancer and for prevention of diseases caused by menopause.

Female circumcision is not traditional cultural practice in Romania and, also, is not permitted in Romanian legislation.

Domestic Violence

The phenomenon of domestic Violence against women are a social, juridical and also important public health problem and it is not specified for the Romanian society, but an universal phenomena. Before 2000 in Romania there was no specific regulation regarding domestic violence only through the Penal Code was punished any act of violence, including domestic violence (articles 180, 181, 184), but in November 2000, by the Law no. 197, the Penal Code was modified and completed with articles that have direct specification to this kind of actions.

The law specify as families either those with legal marital status or not, introduce aggravations in case of violence against the family members, interdiction for the aggressor of reinsertion in the family if convicted and sentenced to prison for domestic violence aggressions. Also, by this law was raised the penalties for sexual abuses and bad treatments on minors. The Romanian Parliament adopted in May 2003 the Law no. 217 on prevention and combating domestic violence. The law set up the National Agency for Family Protection, provide measures for prevention and preventing domestic violence and protection of victims, and define the status and duties of family social assistants.

At national level there are is statistic data available regarding the domestic violence phenomenon, but in Bucharest, out of a population of almost 2 million inhabitants, at the Pilot Center for Assistance and protection for Domestic Violence victims, more than 1000 abused woman asked for help and support each year, in the last three years.

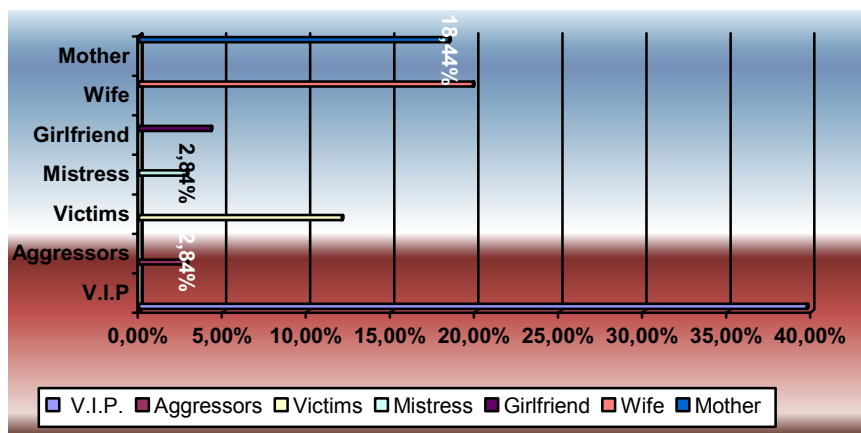
5. Gender Stereotypes in Romanian Media^{vi}

Stereotypes, including gender ones, are direct expression of a society values and beliefs, with a great power of penetration in day to day life. Relating to gender, it is obvious that we function inside a stern structure of defining masculinity and femininity, structure in which „power”, success, public recognition are sooner identified as being male properties, in which a women’s proper place is inside the family, were they can express the empathy and their concern for others, there presence in political field is rather an exception than a rule.

A study made by The Ana Feminine Analysis Society, regarding the written press, in the 2 weeks monitoring of the articles of two important central tabloids („Libertatea”, „Adevarul”), revealed that from a total of 1776 published articles (1027 Adevarul, 751 Libertatea), 336 had as subject women or made any reference to them and 959 articles referred just to men, 451 articles were neuter.

TOTAL ARTICLES	WOMEN ARTICLES	MEN ARTICLES	NEUTER ARTICLES
1776	366	959	451
100%	20,61%	54,00%	25,39%

We can observe that one of five published articles refer to women, in comparison with one out of two articles refers just to men. In almost 60% of the total articles the woman role was not said and couldn’t be deducted out of the context. The next graph shows women role repartition in the remaining 40% of articles monitored.



The main male activity publicized is of a political man (22,71%), in comparison with only 5,41% of women presented in such a position. The comparative analysis of women and men's main roles may conduct us to the identification of certain gender stereotypes. The feminine image during the TV news, mentioning their behavior, verbal as well as non-verbal, including the social or professional position and also their jobs are important criteria of analysis.

Commercial television TV Shows show that women are presented in much more improper position than men. The examples reveal the images of prostitutes less dressed, or in indecent positions, men being in the same time less targeted. Also, women are shown in pain, crying, or in shock, situation in which men are rarely seen in TV shows.

The study analyses the proportion of victims and aggressors revealed in the journals, intending to observe differences of gender: the man as aggressor, symbol of physical power and the woman is usually weak and requiring help, unconditionally subjugated to man's wishes and addicted to him. TV journals usually last between 35 and 45 minutes in one edition and reveal the true internal and external reality in political, social, economic, sport, weather and traffic situations. The analysis followed the principal actors of journals and TV announcers, reporters and guests. The situation looks like this:

- TV announcers are in a bigger proportion women than man
- The field reporters are in their majority male
- The back off voices are more often feminine than masculine
- The guest in TV shows are equal represented by man and women

The conclusions of the study show that men are absolute candidates for the first page of the newspapers, women being in the same time more present on the last page; the triumphal image of women is assimilated with young and sex symbol persons, in general. As media appearance, the masculine prototype is usually a politician, sportsman or artist, only on the last positions there can be found specialists, culture persons, all of them being mature and independent persons. The feminine model is assimilated with young fashion models, singers, TV announcers and rarely sportive woman, actresses, career women, all of them being young.^{vii}

Besides all this aspects regarded with the study made, the situation is much more frightening. On one hand, it cannot be said anything about equality of chances between men and women, in a environment were misogynism is promoted; and on the other hand mass media is much to uninterested on the stereotypes that is promoting. The today society, information is in big demand, and televisions, press, radio and other informational sources contributes, responsible or not, to civil education. A low or null attention shown to information

or methods of presentation can be a huge mistake that will be felt in time, through devaluation of public opinion and direct sanctioning by the media consumers.

6. Governmental Programs developed with the support of non-governmental organizations

The programs carried out aimed mainly at acquiring knowledge and raising awareness on the domestic violence phenomenon, inclusively its causes and effects, decreasing of woman victimization risk by promoting woman rights and their means of assurance, as well as through educational and preventive activities, developed inside high risk communities, informing public opinion and local administrative structures of the fact that infringing the above mentioned rights equals with violation of the of the Constitutional rights, discouraging potential aggressors by decreasing the favoring conditions and making public the consequences of this type of crime.

1. Prevention of domestic violence

This program aimed at involving the civil society in educational and preventive activities, in order to limit this phenomenon; Bucharest together with all counties have participated at this action, having as partners local NGO's

Partners: Police's General Inspectorate- Crime research and Prevention Institute, NGO's

Duration: 2002-2004

Place : București and all counties

Objectives: - Decreasing of the number of domestic violence cases and Discouraging potential aggressors by decreasing the favoring conditions and making public the consequences of this type of crimes - Involvement of the civil society in educational and preventive activities, in order to limit this phenomenon

2. Domestic violence and Woman rights

This program was carried out by organizing interactive meetings between women from different social and professional categories. The aim was to re-analyze women awareness of their rights, according to internal legislation and international documents, as well as of the means of preventing and combating violence against women.

Partners: Police's General Inspectorate- Crime research and Prevention Institute, ARIADNA Organization

Duration: 1996-1997

Place: Bucharest, Iași, Constanța, Cluj and Craiova

Objectives: The decrease of women victimization risk

3. A dignified Status in a Modern State – a chance for the equality of chances

This program was carried out in 6 counties of Romania aiming at identifying and analyzing concrete cases and was meant to offer practical solutions and also to demonstrate that dialog and cooperation between the members of the civil society represent the most efficient and democratic way of solving the problems of their community.

Partners: Police's General Inspectorate- Crime research and Prevention Institute, LDSR organization

Period: 1997-1998

Place: Dolj, Vâlcea, Brăila, Argeș, Giurgiu și Mehedinți

Objective: - Promoting and supporting women rights as part of human rights, Raising awareness of both public opinion and local administrative structures of the fact that infringing the above mentioned rights equals with violation of the constitutional rights

4. Gender equality- a continuous challenge

Partners : Police's General Inspectorate- Crime research and Prevention Institute, counties Police Inspectorates, Organization Partners for Change

Period: 1999-2000

Place: Bucharest, Constanța, Cluj, Vâlcea, Iași

Objectives: Implementing the activities and concepts of social gender in all fields of activity and Disseminating the concept of respecting human rights

5. Help me to help you!

The program aimed to help young women coming from unfavorable areas, and it was supported by the Women Association from Romania. The purpose was to educate institutionalized young women in order to work in social assistance field. Partners: Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity, Local Authorities, The Foundation for Protecting Young Women, an Open Society Foundation

Period: 15 March-15 September 2001

Place: Bucharest

6. Let's build together the image of our girls

The program aimed to support free access to education and help progress of Roma young women and raising the quality of the education at secondary school level Partners: Educational Center 2000+, the Soros Open Network

Period: 2004

Place: Călărași, Ialomița, Dolj

Objectives:

- Eliminating the problems related with early marriage and premature pregnancy of Roma young women
- Decreasing problems generated by poverty, by offering 50 scholarships to Roma young women
- Supporting local partnerships in order to project and implement educational instruments needed for setting up a new educational system "A second chance"

7. Equality of chances between men and women as regards the participation in decision making process

The program was set up in collaboration with the Council of Europe and aimed to promote gender equality and chance equality in the political field.

Partners: Romanian Government, Council of Europe, Local Authorities, Stability Gender Task Force

Period: 27 October 2000-26 January 2001

Place: Bucharest

Objectives

- Encouraging women with the purpose of an active implication in social life
- Contributing to improve women who intend to candidate for public position in local and central officers image.
- Creating awareness through political leaders and public opinion regarding inequality between genders and the necessity of some measures in order to prevent discrimination

6. SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Romania has adopted and ratified the most important international treaties which regards legislation in the gender problems field
- Integration of the principle of equality between men and women in all social, cultural and educational fields
- Ensuring free legal access to education, of young women and man at all levels; and supporting Roma communities in accessing educational programs
- Developed professional assistance designated to: victims of domestic violence, young women who wish to plan there family life or single women with child responsibilities
- Supporting women who wish to access a job or want to develop a professional carrier
- Forbidden the genital mutilation practices and supporting the health reproduction programs, including discharging abortion
- Developed actions by Romanian authorities with the purpose of decreasing and discouraging phenomena as prostitution and human being traffic

Weaknesses

- Absence of child education programs, starting from primary school which to create awareness regarding the equality of chances and women rights
- Absence of assistance programs in rural areas
- Absence of economical measures designated to single women as head of families
- Absence of governmental support for organizations who promote women rights and the lack of cooperation in the field of research, analysis and statistics
- Discriminating phenomenon existence in Romanian mass-media
- Romanian position as country of origin and transit of prostitutes

- Lack of attention for the sexual harassment and absence of legislation for this kind of situations
- Absence of education programs for preventing gender situations

OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Decreasing the number of differences between legislative provisions related to women rights and exercise this rights
- ⇒ Promoting educational models based on the collaboration between genders
- ⇒ To work out the curricula in favor of a non-violent behavior, and of the prevention of conflict situations and violent manifestations in the family
- ⇒ To work out special programs of support for those categories of women having a high degree of social and community isolation and exclusion: older women, single women, women from rural areas, women belonging to minorities
- ⇒ To re-examine and determine the economic and social signification of the work performed in predominant feminine fields of activity.
- ⇒ To create a system of fiscal incentives, reductions of tariffs and granting of free-of-charge services for the vulnerable categories of women and poor families
- ⇒ The improvement of women condition, by achieving equal opportunities and equal access to the labor market
- ⇒ Supporting the feminine movement through promoting women at decisional levels; developing a dignified image for all women with the help of mass media

Threats

- ◆ Keeping the traditional conservatism will decrease the access of women in any other structure beside family
- ◆ The lack of measures against social exclusion phenomenon and poverty can lead to destabilization of familial environment and will discourage the institution of marriage
- ◆ Low integration on the labor market and financial dependence of young women can have consequences on the population birth rate
- ◆ Absence of the stimulative measures designated to economic agents in order to create new jobs in feminine domains

- ◆ Promoting by society of unworthy models, wrongly associated with the image of all woman
- ◆ The absence of reports, studies and statistical data related with prostitution, human being traffic or domestic violence stumble a comply view over the dimension of this phenomena
- ◆ Less attention on women rights, even though Romania has a clear legislation, encourage discriminatory practices to continue

7. Conclusions

Romania is a country found in it's pre-adhering period and in a process of continuously change. The same thing can be said about the women positions in Romanian society.

In present the woman is not just the perfect housekeeper, mother or perfect wife, and this is a sign of attitude changes, both for men and women. Professional qualification, graduating and obtaining a diploma, financial independence are not unreachable objectives anymore, because of the principle of gender equality. On the streets of any city of Romania you can find implicated women in all kinds of social life activities and this fact is a guarantee for a sustainable growth of women statute. Unfortunately, the situation is not the same in the rural areas, where discrimination, prejudice are deeply rooted in traditions and perpetuated by every family.

Free access of youth to education, even though it is assured by the Romanian state, it is limited by their own families. Supporting early marriage send young women in hard to deal with situations and in majority of cases they become addicted, economic and social, to their life partner. Domestic violence, sometimes even sexual abuses are practices often met in the rural areas. The absence of national programs, aiming to create the feeling of awareness and prevention of any kind of abuses against women reduce the efficiency of other supporting measures.

In this field, of gender problems and discrimination against women, Romania doesn't need any kind of measures to be implemented, but need's to reshuffle the entire system: starting with education, labor market access conditions, health services, to supporting women to candidate for managerial positions, in the entrepreneurial field and creating family which are not mono-active.

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7. The Comitee of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Report No. A/CONF. 177 / 7

Online resources

www.cedu.ro/servintro.php - Profil Profesional

www.un.org/womanwatch - Annual Members Report

www.salvaticopiii.ro/star - Urgent evaluation of social exclusion phenomen

END NOTES

i Article 4, Romanian Constitution (modified and completed-November 2003)

ii Article 16, Romanian Constitution (modified and completed-November 2003)

iii Article 34 și 35, Romanian Constitution (modified and completed-November 2003)

iv Articolul 32, Romanian Constitution (modified and completed-November 2003)

v Art.247 from Penal Code, republished in Oficial Monitor No.65, 16th of April 1997

vi Technical data, criteria of the questionnaire and the target chosen to study on are exclusively decisions of the Ana – Feminin Analysis Society

vii Conclusions extracted from Mrs. Mihaela Miroiu comments revealed in “Aspects of gender stereotypes in Romanian mass media”



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Youth involvement

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1. Civic participation

The participation is adverted to an act of implication, through aspirations, attitudes - therefore subjective to integration, through dynamic process of interaction - therefore objective, that unfurls in a system of social relations.

The participation may not be treated as a non-sentimental notion, because by participating of a certain activity, the human being supports a set of values, a necessity of integration and implication or just a way of being or an

identify with the universe that confers his existential orientation as an individual or as a collective.

The Romanian current society oscillates between traditionalism, modernism and the post-modernism, all illustrative elements for these orientations acting in different size upon individual, challenging him by the permanent hesitation between participation and nonparticipation at the public life.

The lack of preoccupation regarding the interesting social activities may be explained through the cultural inheritance of the communist period, when the paternalist State controlled the whole life of society and militate for the inhibition of specific values, situated on the fundamental reasons for participating at the city life.

In this direction, the anthropologist R. Linton, asserts: "In the societies in which, the cultural model prescribes an absolute obedience father of to child, as premise to any reward, the natural adult shall tend to be a submissive dependent individual deprived of initiative. Although he also has forgot big time the experiences that had brought him here; for the elaboration of these attitudes, his first reaction to any new situation shall be to search someone authoritatively which supports and guides him."

In the modern democrat society, the individual must demonstrate in a continuous way his opinion, taking decisions regarding the nature of his participation to the life of the city or having an expectation attitude, getting along with all these and finding at a certain moment his own believes expression by one or another kind of comportment.

The bank stock means the concept used by researchers during the concerning prints of civic participation. The theories about bank stocks represent an used-up frequent category, explaining individuals' acts, all the same even if this is politic, economically, implications at macro level to level macro or if that concern personal life.

When we refer to bank stock, we have to take into consideration certain social buildings such as the meshes, the norms, the habits, all being involved in the decisional process of participation versus civic participation.

In Romania, the revolution of 1989 constituted the point in which the politic rigidities were eliminated, even if there was given reins to development and public participation, it seemed as the population acted on assets. Democratic comportment doesn't resume and it is not identified with the notion of mentality because it means more and it has a major contribution in affective plan, appearing as a great audience participating intense civics. Therefore, we assist in the life of the city for maintaining the common welth.

Youth civic participation

We may start from premises as that any participation held presupposes firstly that the young human being can identify himself with certain values, any person being involved in all that he believe that's representative for him.

Starting from hypothesis: "Deafly participate civics and held from Romania determinates so the incuriosity, at all of an average sense for social changes, from last years, adversely their assertion." -this hypothesis is formulated in the national report about the politics of youth in Romania which were confirmed on the strength obtained by off-line researches.

First appearances throughout was tried the assertion about confutation of suggested hypothesis, were:

- the perception of youth considering successful live .
- the satisfaction grade of hold against the politics.
- trust in certain institutions.
- the perceptions looking the communication among authority and citizens.
- citizens' information.
- personal participation to certain activities.
- interest for the community problems.

Using the dates, it may be seen that a compliant hypothesis about civic held from Romania aren't determined thread of the incuriosity, at all of a average social of the sense of social changes from last unfavorable years affirming them.

It remains to be studied the appearances regarding the motivation of an active participation, as responsible citizens.

2. Youth associative life

Even if there are no studies regarding the life held before December '89, the studies of another orientation, the one with ethnologic literary historicity, etc. It mentioned forms of traditional partnerships of the holds, such as" the brotherhoods"," the virginities", some associate of" Junes" or" the scouts" or simply groupings of young which have commune affinities, is cultural, is sports or any other invoice.

Pass from these primary forms of partnership to the partnership in formal structures, carry is based on rules official writes in Romania at the beginning of the cotemporary age and fix through" Law for juridical person (associations and foundations), in 06. 02 02 1924.

Forwarding on the axis of the time arrive in communist period, when directing to structure of politic party is near impossible of discoursed upon nongovernmental organizations in own sense.

Thus in communist period was said that the children and youth organizations recognized by nongovernmental authorities, but still with a degree of erect covering, that might be explained only through of a compulsoriness existence. Thus, there were: "Pioneers and Land-Hawks Association", "Communist Youth Union ", "Communist Students Association ".

These were constituted as units, contributing to educate youngster's generations in direction of a development societies communist which form of the hold of the sense of the continuation of politic tradition.

Starting with the revolution from '89, there was opened a civil society participation new way. Hold began to initiate organizations nongovernmental, still else than the establishment of democratic parties. This can be explained through the fact that they set up new partnerships taking the model and the centers of the ex-communist organizations.

The cross pointing to the democratic system presumes changes not only to the management level of the state, but also in civil society. This emancipation, through the participation and the implication citizens in the process of taking, elaboration and implement the decisions is some from the conditions of good operations of the democracy. Youth have a different influence, participating actively in taking decisions that involves them directly or connects them with the in large society.

3. Civil society

In any democratic country, civil society has a decisional interest, these checks up its power, and the power abuses. The building of civil society, its organizations, perfects the power, produce the social separation of powers. Regarding Ernest Gillnet, civil society represents: "Part remnant society after the theft of the state and which pine legitimate with this." The civil society is involved in all that where there are decisions staking the public interest, it is a true condition where through its democracy operates in the country.

The citizens have his possibility to influence public politics by dint of a groupings, free which associate that state there own requirements. These are nongovernmental organizations.

The civil society is established instrumentally between state and individual, and through the sustentation of the independence organizations, they may limit ones or prevents one shares ale the cabinet, can attenuate conflicts.

The partnership presupposes the existing common needs, is established and is strengthened and take part to a community. The partnership is tight incident to developmental civil society. It may be definite as: "A sum of mentalities and comportment wherewith the individuals become awake to facto.de jure and the obligations of citizens, acting in a democratic frame, regulated juridical".

After December 1989, in Romania appeared partners (nongovernmental organizations) what tried to ape the external fashions, had a social real supports. Others were esoteric concerning opportunisms, capturing advantages offered by the relation with external, these partners tendencies are available for youth associations. Youth has a predisposition to partnership much more than the adults and elders. Fred Mahler considered this thing an expense of the fact that youth is the brand of the social birth man, the constitution and the new development of strong and cohesive relations, specially between the limbs of the same age and generations' groups, having possibility to rebuilt the relations with the other members of the society.

In developmental period from teenager, the young man passes what phase is referring only to the intensification of the relations of groups. Tendency of held is accentuated the in contextually of social anomie when the youth is felt marginalize and frustrated.

The grouping on functional structures ale of instructional academic facilitated the appearance of new organizational nucleus at different level of institutes and faculties. Thus, after 1989, they appeared many other structures apart from this kind. The pupils began relatively late his created organizations, and the process is slow. His average is proffered partners with cultural profiles to the level schools and the fan clubs.

The youth represents a period from childhood to zone which in taken over gradually another social roles and it is identified as status representatively for each.

Young people (16-29/ 15-28) are considered a category with specific characteristics, with a large mobility concerning spirit, emotions, passing very easy from stress and anxious state of spirit (caused by personal problems and perspectives, better said caused by the absence of professional views) to an airiness a total, going up to ignorance concerning the present or future perspectives.

Taking into account all these features, it may be explained why the students had leaded many times the social and political motions. The intellectual youth, the students, are a special category, characterized by a professional, economics context, similar with the active participating model of active participation, they are different from the other social groups through living and attitudes against events and the social politic process. They reacts frequently

before other social groups, to social politic events in different mode through age, information disposed, values of group, freedom of expression.

4. Evolution of the associative phenomenon after 1989

1. June 1990:" Flux asociativ" represents a reorganization of youth aspirations. Youth want to have independent, freely and democratic associations, able to represent their interests. There appeared organizations having into the title words such: " Freely"," democrat"," independent"

2. July 1990-1992: the number of young people members of associations is going down, because of social and material problems and because of the legislative stimulating precautions, because of the indifference of administrative organs. Another cause was the fact that the leaders of the associations have a managerial reduced experience.

3. 1992-1995- "Regenerate associative": some organizations are reorganization, limiting themselves at one member, getting to a increased by actively and establish members. There appeared specific and efficiently organizations.

4. "The gradually specialization of the associations" – gave answers to youth problems, being specialized on certain areas: Culture, art, sport, touring, social ecologic jobs, scientifically. In 1995, only 7, 9% among associations had general purposes, the majority being specialized. Here was the moment to appear international organizations.

Taking into account a study of CURS and Fundatia for Dezvoltarea Societatii Civile(2002), in Romania exist over 8 members of an associations, foundations, and among these 10% of these is considered founders. Only that, the real implication of civil society is increased. In Romania, after 1989 it is a true blast number of this kind of organizations. The formal process must be encouraged because they damage the democracy, but it may consolidate it. The novel, from view mentalities, of the attitudes and the civic behaviors is citizen minimal", that is uncertain on institutions, on law, humbly and with a complex of hierarchical inferiority against the politic administrative institutions.

Big majority of the youth associations has city average (in 1995 their number was with 15, 3 % bigger than in rural). Members are aged between 14-35, among which 60-65 were in a boys descending order, such as: Pupils, students, operations, brain workers.

Half of the leaders of the associations is between 20-25 years, the other half is over 25 years, majority boys. Is remarked a tendency of girls promoting, specially into small organizations.

The motion of association facilitates the desideratum gambled an important roles in the future of the country. The motivation to remain into an organization is characterized by more enthusiasm, abide at unity. The bonus are characterized by specific of juvenile age: The necessity of meeting and intra-generational communication, of change, of assist in the social life, of assertion. For all these there are added reasons with specific character for the organization. The motivations are more realistic.

The obstacles in the way of civic manifestation of one by-path of social nature, especially of poverty. These led to social, psychological, politic exclusion. For a big category of people, the democracy is nonsensical and prevails such "climacteric mentalities" characterize through of an ideal absence (" why should I get involved?") and because of the absence of the responsibility feeling for the common wealth of community. The one excluded consider as the own life holds on the responsibilities of another: State, city hall.

5. Youth implication

Youth from Romania considers of important maxim: The observance binds, maintain the order of the in the country, the right observance of the man, the denunciation of fiscal frauds of as well as fight against any form of violence.(80% from youth). With the exception area of right assurance of the minorities, all civic attitudes are considerate of very big part of the improvement society of young.(64-79).

Rural youth appreciate much more the civic attitudes. Urban youth grant an elder important to the civic attitudes taking into account the freedom phrasal and the participating citizens to the taking of the decisions.

ⁱⁱ Linton, 1968, 166 *apud* Roumanian Sociology Magazine, no. 4/2004, pg. 212



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Globalization

Globalization lies in the center of modern culture, and that is why it is a phenomenon of utmost importance for any modern society. In the case of modernizing societies, the phenomenon is even more important, because while caught in the race of modernization, the society might witness especially the negative effects of globalization as a direct result of hasty modernization and of adopting the forms but not the content.

Romania for almost two centuries now, is undergoing a continuous, but not uniform, process of modernization. The methods used have been different. At first, they were specific to East-European states gradually emerging from the sphere of influence of multi-national empires, then they were characteristic to communist states having as model of development the Soviet Union, and finally, after 1989 the methods used were similar to other ex-communist states. Naturally, this *mélange* did not result in modernity.

Even so, during the past 15 years, remarkable progress has been achieved, especially in what the building of the legal and institutional framework characteristic to modern European states is concerned. The effects of globalization did not take any time emerging, especially after 1989, when the strictness of the Ceausescu regime vanished. The shock was of course enormous, and one of the categories affected most was youth, those people who had few memories about the regime and who saw the new, global opportunities as being natural. Nevertheless, these young men and women live in a society that is still to some extent paying homage to old values and not ready to accept the reality of a global world.

There is no universally accepted or final definition of globalization. The reason resides in the fact that globalization includes a multitude of complex processes, with varying dynamics, affecting various layers of a society. This is why evaluating how Romanian youth is affected by globalization is no easy task.

However, a good start would be to say that there is no sustained discussion on globalization or the problems that it may cause. In an interview, Mr. N. Bazga, the coordinator of an NGO, stated that *'although there is no institutional estimate, it is believed that 90% of the Romanian population has no idea what (the globalization) this is. The main reason for this situation is the fact that a real debate is completely absent and information sources are scarce and hard to access. This deficient in information causes the phenomenon of globalization to be treated superficially even by those who should take direct interest in the consequences that it has and will have in Romania.'*¹

One of the few counter-examples would be provided by a conference organized by 'Fundatia Noua Romanie', a nongovernmental organization. The event was

called 'Globalization and Cultural Identity' and took place in May 2002, with the participation of important figures of the Romanian cultural and political life. One of the main messages of the conference was about the dangerous leveling of fundamental values.²

At the governmental level, the debate on globalization is concerned only with the macroeconomic level. The government has no time to worry about the long-term effects of globalization, or about its socio-cultural effects. Of priority are economic growth, privatization, the alignment of the legislation to E.U. standards and many other, a situation characteristic to the haste with which some governments handle modernization.

What is perhaps curious is that in Romania, the anti-globalization feeling characteristic to many western societies does not exist. Probably globalization is perceived as being 'somewhat' bad, but because it is not understood, nobody protests against it. On the other hand, many benefit from its positive effects. Of course, it would be desirable to have a real debate, before society would find itself in front of the hard facts, fully experiencing the negative effects of globalization. If the lack of interest from the government could be somehow understood, why do the NGO's adopt the same posture? Is poverty an explanation for everything, or has Romanian society fallen under the spell of the West and of the global world?

From the point of view of technology, probably most young men and women (at least in urban areas) enjoy the use of the Internet or of mobile technology. Internet chat or the SMS have become a part of the life of many. In Romania there is an impressive number of mobile phone users, some 9 million out of a population of 22, many of them being young. The Internet too is gaining more and more weight, with rapidly growing numbers of users as well as more time spent on the web.

Socially, personal mobility, the capacity to travel outside the borders of the country increased considerably, both through the elimination of communist restrictions and the elimination of visas for most European countries. Many Romanians, youth in important proportion, leave the country in order to work either temporary or on a indefinite period of time, mainly in the European Union, but not only. This migration is either intermediated by the Romanian government and the government of the destination state, or as it often happens is a self-sponsored venture. From year to year, more Romanians choose to work abroad, and from year to year, the queue in front of the office that deals with the migration of the workforce is getting bigger.

Similarly, educational mobility has grown significantly, especially through the implementation of the Erasmus-Socrates program. This allows thousands of students every year to spend a semester studying abroad in a foreign higher education institution. Pointless to say that for these partially financed grants, the competition among students is high. Without taking into account that in some

Universities, the grants are awarded according to methods that are less transparent than it would be desirable, the success of the program in Romania is high. With their expectations high and impatiently, young Romanian students have a taste of globalization. Of its sweet part, of course. I am saying this, because most of them return from this experience obviously satisfied. Some even have thoughts of continuing their studies abroad or of working there. All however, learn more or less important lessons, and usually return with high expectations. The general conclusion appears to be that 'it will soon be the same in here too'.

These are not the only scholarship grants abroad available to the Romanian youth. For example, the National Office for Abroad Scholarship Grants (ONBBS) manages all study or specialization/research grants offered by the Ministry of Education and Research. Although that the grants managed by ONBBS are basically better (usually completely covering the expenses, and being awarded on national level) they are not very popular with Romanian youth, partially because of their reduced number (compared with the Erasmus grants) but especially because they are poorly advertised, and the information does not reach students.

From the point of view of political globalization, Romanian youth is are optimist as they could be. An aspect of major importance of this chapter of globalization would be the transfer of some of the decision-making abilities, from the national forums to the supranational ones. Although nationalism is still a strong feeling in Romania, young people –as probably most of the populace is– are not against the perspective that some of the decisions regarding them shall not be taken by Romanians but by foreigners, and not in Bucharest, but somewhere in Europe. For this phenomenon there are more explanations.

Firstly, it could be the fact that among the population, and especially among youth, the level of disillusion is quite high. In 1989 everyone's hopes were high. The hard-won 'liberty' obtained in the Revolution was not resumed to what we would now understand by 'liberty'; it also meant economic performance, increase of the standard of living, condemnation of the former political police officers and their collaborators, it meant coming back to normality. Positive effects however failed to appear, and corruption scandals relating to various governments destroyed the image of Romanian politicians. Often, there was talk about the fact that the current 'political class' has to be replaced and that 'communist dinosaurs' have to be overthrown. The change of persons and mentalities at the level of the political leadership was not conducted or is done unhurriedly, and thus, young people feel ignored, under appreciated, prisoners of a system based on nepotism, bribery and dishonesty. It is almost rooted in Romanian mentality that the foremost cause of our inability, -as a nation- to progress lies in the fact that those who seize power use it exclusively for their benefit. In this framework, where in order to get ahead you must be able to 'play dirty' and suffer a lot of injustice, where all those representing governmental

power, all public servants 'steal' it is easy to understand why the transfer of power towards an supra national forum would not worry anyone, with the exception of corrupt politicians.

The other explanation is based on the fact that Romanians, at least most of them (and youth is no exception) have only vague ideas of what accession to the E.U. means. For many, the European integration, with all the transfer of sovereignty that comes along, with all the economic dirigisme that will follow and with all the cultural leveling that seems inevitable, the integration seems a necessity, almost a present made by somebody in Bruxelles. Nobody bothers to notice the effects that integration will have upon us, as a nation or as a state. We are heading with large steps towards what truly is globalization, and not only that nobody protests, but some are worried that we will not get there in time. Political decision makers are in no hurry to inform us about the costs of E.U. integration, and the mass media acts similarly. Although the discussion about integration in the E.U. is not new, euro-skeptics are only now emerging timidly, and it is probable that their existence will be short-lived. For many young people, the E.U. is nothing else than a land of opportunities, a infinite series of benefits that implies no obligation. We are perhaps too poor to think about tomorrow.

On the economic level, the effects of globalization are also visible, the invasion of foreign products on the Romanian market having been perceived with high, but decreasing enthusiasm. Something that is as normal as possible. After a long period when on the market one could only find dubious quality Romanian products (and in insufficient quantity), the emergence of foreign products generated amidst the population some kind of euphoria and a 'revolution' of consumerism. Naturally, the craze for chewing gum or for jeans gradually decreased, while confidence in national products slowly recovered. McDonald's restaurants quickly became very popular, not necessarily due to the quality of the services offered or due to low prices, but for what they stood for in the mind of Romanians. McDonald's, the same McDonald's that in occidental society is a symbol of globalization, in Romania is a symbol of capitalism, of the modern west, of the United States, more generally- a symbol of all that is desirable. However, the situation tends to change, as the euphoria disappears. Slowly, Romanians begin to see details that at first they did not. Doubts begun to appear relating to the quality of the food served, and prices are being compared to those of the competition.

All these can easily be explained. Picture a political regime that prohibits everything that comes from the west, claiming that the west is corrupt and damaging, while most of the populace is aware that things are exactly the other way around and that in the west one does not have to queue for hours in front of the supermarket in order to buy some milk and that essential products are easy to find and high quality. Picture then a revolution that eliminates these stupid ideological restrictions. It is normal for that population that had been kept locked up, to 'explode' and try to do everything that was forbidden and try to live like

those offered as counter-example by the tyrannical regime. Then, when enough years have passed, a period of relaxation comes –or should come- a period when the population will again be able to judge how it should act in order to benefit most.

On the cultural level, where the effects of globalization are perhaps more easily observable, again there are few protests. For example, the adoption by Romanian youth of a holiday such as Valentine's Day (which now surpasses in importance the similar autochthonous holiday of 'Dragobete') did not provoke any virulent reaction. The adaptation of the American tradition in this respect is as bizarre as possible, taking into consideration that according to the Orthodox calendar, Saint valentine is not celebrated on the 14 of February. Basically, Romanian young men and women say to each other Happy Valentine's Day, in a day that has nothing to do with the holiday in itself. The current language of youth is –and not only- is invaded by English elements, but only few oppose this tendency publicly. The Romanian language is constantly loosing ground, and words such as 'trend', 'job' or 'OK', are if not used, at least understood by most youth. Foreign movies, especially American productions, are ranking first in the preferences of young people, while the few autochthonous productions are usually ignored. Almost nobody feels the danger of cultural leveling and of the disappearing of the national culture. Curiously enough, on the declarative level, many –youth included- would not agree to this loss of national identity to the detriment of a global culture.

To conclude, Romanian youth is pro globalization, and probably shall remain so, because nobody explains what globalization is and what are its risks. Romanian young men and women are pro globalization, because in this global context they feel that culturally, economically or socially we have more to receive from the exterior, than we would have to suffer. Romanian young people like Coca-Cola and like McDonald's, because they are American, and right now, most of what is western is seen as benefic. Normally, some time would have to pass, until the positive effects will become normality and people will also observe the negative effects.

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Notes

¹ Interview with Mr. Nicu Bazaga, the coordinator of 'Asociatia pentru Taxarea Tranzactiilor Financiare in Beneficiul Cetatenilor' www.globalizarea.com/globalizare-articole-nb.htm

² www.nouaromanie.ro/revista%20on-line_files/nr5-mai2002/eveniment.htm



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Information Technology and Communication

1. General Facts
2. Governmental Projects and Programs
3. The SWOT analysis of youth policies regarding IT&C:
4. Conclusions and results
5. Annexes
6. Bibliography

1. General Facts

Information and Communication Technology is a field that developed considerably during the last years, especially following the signing of membership treaties with the European Union. The main goal is the implementation of the Informational Society in Romania. This process implies the development of high-level informational and communicational technologies and ensuring all citizens access to information.

Romania joined in 2001 the programs *eEurope* and *eEurope+*. The leaders of E.U. member states, having in view the reduction of the gap between the U.S. and the European Union, adopted in 2000 in Lisbon a declaration in which they affirm their determination to transform the E.U. in: *'the most competitive knowledge economy by the year 2010, capable of sustaining economic growth by creating new employment opportunities and through the existence of a high degree of economic cohesion'*¹, thus launching *eEurope*. E-Economy shall contribute to economic growth especially through the wide-scale use of the Internet. Because a technological and economic gap exists between member and candidate states, the later adopted a program called *eEurope+* (2001) that resumed the basic elements of *eEurope*:

- *'ensuring electronic communication for every household, school, enterprise and public administration institution;*
- *creating the digital and entrepreneurial culture of Europe;*
- *ensuring the exercise of the principle according to which the transition to the digital era should include the entire society, should ensure the trust of consumers and should strengthen social cohesion'*².

Another objective was added, referring to the ensuring of the necessary infrastructure for the transition to an Informational Society. The European Commission proposed a series of indicators to quantify the state of development of the Informational Society:

'Indicators pertaining to the degree of Internet use:

- *Citizens' access to and their use of the Internet;*
- *Companies' access to and their use of the Internet;*
- *Internet access cost;*

On-line public services:

- *E-government;*
- *E-education;*

- *E-health;*

A dynamic electronic business environment

- *On-line commerce;*
- *Degree of Internet use in business;*
- *A secure infrastructure / Degree of broadband communication cover³*

For the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCTI), passing to the Informational Society is the first and foremost goal. This passing involves changes in administration (e-government), education (e-learning), business (e-commerce), culture (multimedia centers and virtual libraries) and the facilitation of work (distance work)⁴. These transformations are possible only through the use of the Internet, considering the special influence it has on people's lives. For the success of the transformation, an improvement in communicational infrastructure and in informational applications is required.

With the implementation of the *e-programs* in Romania, the technological change meant to facilitate communication, informational exchanges and educational processes has begun. *E-programs* are destined to all social categories, without any age or social status discrimination. Still, these programs are best implemented amidst youth, as young people are more likely to accept new forms of knowledge and can be more easily integrated in computer-aided educational systems.

Characteristics of Communication

Communication is the action of transmitting a message about 'something' to a receptor. The action implies certain conditions: the intent (of the transmitter) to send the information, the motivation of the receiver, as well as the existence of certain events or ideas as subject of the message. In order to exist, the action implies a common activity for both the transmitter and the receiver (a common language), a common experience as well as a technology that would facilitate the reproduction and distribution of the message. In this way, an effect or a change occurs⁵.

Society must not be regarded as a static sum of social institutions. Through communication individuals keep society active. The means of communication include those languages and symbols that can be understood in order to communicate.

Their use is conditioned by the possession of specific qualities. More types of languages generate barriers in communication. Although the tendency in democratic states has been that of leveling access to means of communication, of reducing the cleavages and inequities through education and through the introduction of mass-communication, there are still numerous differences in the

access to informational flows. The usage of the modern means available today requires certain skills. Economic and power discrepancies mark this inequality.

The communication implies change.⁶ Communication processes can be considered cause or necessary condition of change, especially relating to technological or cultural investments. The development of communication has a general contribution to the development of industry and commerce. The development of communication has been analyzed from the point of view of the content of the message (the way in which it has been controlled or directed), or of the means of communication (communication technology: from stone writings to papyrus, to the newspapers, to the internet).

In the ensuing I shall illustrate how information technology developed in Romania during the years⁷.

2. Governmental Projects and Programs

The Romanian government, through The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology succeeded, by own means or with the aid of internal or international organizations, in applying various programs meant to better the sector and enhance youth's access to information.

The programs that assure the passage to the informational society, that assure the improvement of the technological system, presented in the following pages do not all target youth directly. Some only refer to a particular field and not to a specific public. However, they are addressed to youth as well.

A. Policies and Strategies:

- The Information Technology Promotion Group
- The National Strategy for Promoting the New Economy and Implementing Informational Society
- Romania's Durable Strategy 'ORIZONT-2025'
- IT&C in Education

F. Programs

1. 'e-Learning AEL: 'Advanced e-Learning'
2. 'e-Inclusion'
3. 'e-Tineret' (e-Youth)
4. 'Euro200'
5. 'Parteneri pentru educatie' (Partners for education)
6. 'e-Ideea' (e-Idea)
7. -'Economia bazata pe Cunoastere' (Knowledge Economy)
8. 'e-Content'

A. Policies and Strategies

The Information Technology Promotion Group

It was established by Government Decision 271/2001 in order to coordinate the activities for the implementation of Informational Society and in

order to form a perspective on new technologies. Between 2001 and 2004, the Group approved more than 180 IT projects, with a cumulative value of over 700 million Euros. The Group is chaired by the Prime Minister and made up of 6 Ministers with high responsibilities regarding information technology and communication usage in various fields.

The National Strategy for Promoting the New Economy and Implementing Informational Society was adopted by Government decision 1440/2002. The implementation of communitarian *acquis* is insufficient for moving on to Informational Society and that is why this strategy was adopted, in order to ensure the fulfillment of the objectives set by the E.U. in the reports *eEurope* and *eEurope2005*.

Informational Society

Is an objective of development, not a goal, an essential component in governmental development policies and a major condition for Romania's E.U. membership. The technological support of this Society is the ensuring of the convergence of three sectors: Information Technology, Communication Technology and Electronic Productions ⁸. This strategy provides that the national informational infrastructure and IT%C industry shall be consolidated, wide scale economic services shall be provided, the national IT%C products and services industry shall be developed, the building of a fundament for the Informational Society shall be accelerated (meaning quick Internet access, development of research and education networks, the education and training of the youth for Informational Society, indiscriminate use of informational technology, etc.)

In conformity with the action plan (2001) adopted in order to implement the program *eEurope* (2003), E.U. candidate states must establish a series of objectives in their governmental policies in order to assure the passage to Informational Society. The modernization of economy, changes in the business process, the functioning of the government and changing interactions between citizens, economy and politics, all demanded the establishment of wider policies, that recognize the potential of this development for economic advance and prosperity as well as new opportunities for the citizens of the respective states ⁹:

- The acceleration of the process of ensuring informational and communication services to everyone (without any discrimination)
- The adoption and implementation the *acquis* relevant for Informational Society.
- Fast and cheap Internet access.
- Fast Internet access for researchers and students.
- Secure networks and 'smart cards'.
- The introduction of youth in the 'digital era'. (e-learning)

- Participation to 'knowledge economy'.
- The acceleration of 'e-commerce'.
- Electronic access to public services ('On-line Government').
- On-line health (e-Health), On-line environment.
- Digital content for global networks.
- Smart transport systems.

Providing Internet services for everyone is a condition necessary for the expansion of Informational Society. A basic need exist, namely that of offering all citizens permissive services in order to avoid informational exclusion.

Ensuring high-speed Internet access to students and researchers offers broadened opportunities of enhancing study activities, offering a larger potential for innovative activities. E.U. candidate states must enhance the scientific basis for the benefit of the entire continent. New forms of learning, of joint working in the framework of a national, regional, European and global context, shall assure new opportunities for candidate states. Such services have to be available in the context of a liberalized communication sector, having an efficient and competitive model.

Romania's Durable Strategy 'ORIZONT-2025', Fifth Session: 'Telecommunications, Information technology and Postal Services'

It was launched in September 2004 according to the provisions of the program *eEurope*. *'By the year 2005, every citizen must have access to communication services; a digital and entrepreneurial culture must exist, for the benefit of dynamic investors.'*¹⁰

In promoting and applying this strategy, the following aspects shall be of high priority: ensuring high-speed and cheap Internet access, developing smart transport systems, continuing the process of securing networks, fighting IT&C fraud, as well as promoting smart cards.

The long term objectives (according to the 2004 report of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology) in the sector of communication, refer to the complete integration of the national communication market in the Internal Market of the European Union, the increase of the role of this sector in the process of promoting and stimulating economic development, social cohesion and reducing regional development gaps. E-government initiative shall develop through the implementation of electronic services that function in the economic and social spheres, the setting-up of public Internet access centers, the standardization of the information transport network as well as the creation of a IT&C research laboratories network. By 2025 a digital television network and a digital radio network, shall be established, networks that would be accessible to 90% of Romania's population.

IT&C in Education¹¹

Primary Education:

Although IT&C disciplines are not compulsory at this level, there is a significant number of Internet-connected schools, where students have computer access and receive basic knowledge on computers and the Internet.

Secondary Education:

By Order no. 3670/2001 of the Ministry of Education and Research and in conformity with the curriculum for high-school education, Information Technology is a compulsory class. Also, the excellent results of Romanian students in international IT competitions are to be remarked.

B. Programs:

e-Learning

By 'electronic learning', we understand all educational situations that utilize Information Technology and Communication means. (Olimpius Istrate) Until now, it has been only used in higher education, by educating adults, but the program is now being implemented to school students as well. *E-Learning* is a type of distance education, with methods of teaching-studying, organized by an institution that provides educational materials through the use of the new information and communication technologies available, especially through the Internet. The Internet is both the material distribution environment and the communication channel. The Internet training system comes as an answer to traditional educational methods, but in the same time adapts to the latter through planning, specific content, methodology, interaction, support and evaluation.

E.U.–adopted implementation initiatives for the e-Learning program identify four main directions of action: the improvement of the infrastructure and of the equipment (Internet access in all class rooms –with a ratio of 5-15 students per multimedia computer), the organization of trainings at all levels (access to digital literature, the use by professors of digital technologies in the process of education, the creation of new on-line study opportunities), the development of qualitative contents, services and networks of European schools.¹²

The Computer-Aided Educational System (SEI) was initiated by the Information Technology Promotion Group in the spring of 2001. In the first phase of the program, computer laboratories were set up in 120 high schools and schools from all county capitals and major cities, using modern technologies provided by HP, IBM, Fujitsu Siemens Computers and SIVCO Romania.¹³

Presently, such laboratories function in 1220 high schools all over the country, and the action shall continue in more than 6000 schools. The Computer-Aided Education System (SEI) Program supports the objectives of the educational reform, in conformity with the European Community's *e-Europe* strategy. Also, it is an integral part of the European *e-Learning* initiative. SEI is a complex, long-term program.

The strategic phases of The Computer-Aided Educational System¹⁴

Ensuring the hardware and communication infrastructure, this implies fitting the schools with Internet-connected computers, in order to provide every student and teacher with his/her own computer. Every student and teacher shall have Internet access, thus having the possibility to obtain immediately up-to-date information in any field. The Internet must be one of the most important means of information. The Internet is also a good communication environment between schools and the Ministry, allowing a national monitoring of school activities.

Ensuring software support –which shall be done with the aid of AEL informatics system (educational and management software). This system was chosen by the Ministry of Education and Research as a platform for the educational content developed in the Computer-Aided Educational System.

The AEL System:

The supplier of governmental IT&C improvement programs is the company SIVCO Romania.¹⁵ This company developed the AEL system –an integrated teaching, study and content management system based on the principles of modern education- within the *e-learning* program. The AEL *e-Learning* platform offers teaching, study, evaluation, content management, education monitoring and curricular conception support.

The AEL system may be used by students, teachers or other administrative management or educational content producers. By using interactive didactic materials, the quality of the learning process is enhanced. The student is faced with both abstract or static illustrations of the facts taught, and realistic representations, simulations of the phenomena, dynamic illustrations. These electronic lessons connect the lesson taught with the real world, the student being able to realize concrete representations with increased ease.

The AEL system has been implemented in the pre-university education system, the university education system and in corporations, for internal training purposes. *'The AEL is the nervous spine of the SEI program, offering teaching/study, evaluation, grading, management and multimedia content monitoring support.'*¹⁶

Objectives of the AEL system

- to support the teaching/study process, through modern electronic means.
- to facilitate the study process.
- to stimulate creativity, competition and team work.
- to use simulation software as a substitute for expensive or difficult to obtain didactic materials or instruments.

AEL is a complete *e-Learning* solution, offering management facilities as well as presentation facilities for various types of educational content such as multimedia interactive materials, interactive guides, exercise, simulations, educational games and many others. The system has an electronic, adaptable, configurable database, with educational content management and administration functions.

Currently, there are 1.902.000 beneficiaries (700.000 students and 62.000 teachers), 1510 computer laboratories, 600 Internet-connected high schools, and 530 multimedia lessons. (see Annex). The multimedia learning system now covers 40% of the educational curriculum.

e-Inclusion

As Informational Society advances, social and economic opportunities depend more on the use of IT&C. The more the latter advances, the more important is assuring that disadvantaged individuals are not left outside.

The program *e-Inclusion* has the purpose of preventing 'digital exclusion', that is to make sure that the disadvantaged are not marginalized in order to avoid further exclusion caused by the lack of access to digital literature and the Internet. *e-Inclusion* is about ensuring new 'digital opportunities' to include the socially disadvantaged.

The Informational Society has the potential to equitably distribute knowledge resources and to offer new employment opportunities. It has a fundamental role in developing the globalization process. In this way, through the destruction of traditional communication barriers, the access to information and to knowledge is facilitated, opening the way for global interaction.

e-Tineret

Launched in 2004, it refers to programs that facilitate youth's access to technology. **This program was not happened.**

Euro200

In August 2004, the Romanian Government approved the methodological norms for the implementation of Law no. 269/2004¹⁷, thus establishing the eligibility criteria for the awarding of a € 200 financial support for school and university students, members of low-income families, in order to facilitate them the acquisition of a new computer. The beneficiaries are students of accredited state or private education institutions, under 26 years of age, members of families that have a gross income per capita inferior to 1.5000.000 Lei (approx. 40 Euros). A series of security measures exist: the computer cannot be sold for a minimum of three years since the purchase and the economic agent must offer a one year guarantee for the product. The minimal compulsory configuration of the computer must include a 1.6 GHz processor, 128 MB RAM and a 40 GB hard disk, keyboard, mouse and monitor. The official list of beneficiaries has been published by the Ministry of Education and Research in 'Monitorul Oficial' issue no. 973/October 22nd 2004. In total, 120.425 requests were filed, out of which only 25.051 were approved. The number of purchased computers was 22.798¹⁸. (see Annex)

Partners for Education

Also as a part of the *e-Tineret* (e-Youth) program, a partnership for the implementation of the Program '*Partners for Education*' was signed with Microsoft. Lasting for five years, the program benefits of a 1 million US Dollars budget¹⁹ and is conceived for all pre-university students and instructors, in kindergartens, elementary schools and high schools.

The program consists in software investments that would offer students and instructors Information Technology courses and would assist the integration of IT&C in the methods of teaching and in the learning process. The program facilitates access to information technology by supplying freeware license for operation systems (Fresh Start), by supplying up-grades for Windows and by offering the Office pack at a reasonable price (School Agreement). The '*Partnership for Education*' focuses on developing IT&C skills, on creating a human resource competitive for the world market, by offering computer use courses for students and teachers, as an initiation basis.

'e-Ideea'

In order to support young people, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has organized in the past four years a contest called '*e-Ideea*'²⁰, for those young men and women interested in the field of IT. Thus, the Ministry supports the initiatives of young people, offering them a chance to put their ideas to good use and become renown. Last year, the contest was organized in partnership with ARIES, the Students' League from the Faculty of Computers and Electronics, and the Association of Romanian Economy Sciences Students and was hosted by an exhibition center, in parallel with an computer products and software exhibition, Binary 2004. There were 295 enlisted participants, 120 more than in the previous year. '*The growing number of*

*participants and ideas demonstrate that Romania has greatly talented IT&C human resources. In this way, young people have the opportunity of convincing us that their ideas deserve recognition and appreciation*²¹. The best electronics and software ideas were rewarded.

'Knowledge Economy'

In January 2004, the Romanian Government, through the Ministry Communication and Information Technology and with the support of the World Bank, initiated a project called '*Knowledge Economy*'²². It was established that approximately 300 virtual networks that would serve as 'knowledge centers', should be set up in rural areas, in order to supply information and services for the citizens and the business environment. The networks are to be set up according to the needs of particular communities. The Electronic Networks of local communities shall connect the main social, economic and educational institutions at local level—the school, the City Hall, the library, cultural establishments- with the national and global informational and transactional networks. The benefits include the extension of the access to IT&C technology and the improvement of computer use abilities for students and teachers in disadvantaged communities, through the use of educational software in the teaching/study process.

Finalize

'e-Content'

Romania's participation in the 2003 '*Communitarian Program for European Digital Content Use in Global Networks Stimulation and Development, and Linguistic Diversity in Informational Society Promotion*'²³ (e-Content) was approved by the Government through its Decision no. 886/2003.

The program revolves around three main directions of action:

- The improvement and development of information use in the public sector;*
- The stimulation of informational content production in a multicultural and multilingual environment;*
- The intensification of digital content market dynamics.*

The objective pursued by the program is the creation of a informational culture: the connection to the Internet of libraries, museums, theatres as well as the set up of virtual libraries and virtual book stores.

➤ *eLearning Programs:*

- ECDL: "European Computer Driving Licence"
- ECDL for the blind.
- Cisco: "Cisco Networking Academy"

➤ The “Cyber Café” project.

➤ *eLearning* programs:

General forms of *eLearning*²⁵ :

❖ **Education by Mail:** It was born before the apparition and general use of the technological means of communication and manifests by printed materials and mail services. The present forms of mail education are electronic teaching materials such as: the floppy disk, CD or e-mail. Some of the advantages are: costs for traveling, storage and personnel are reduced.

❖ **Education by Radio:** Was used mostly at the beginnings of radio communication, but now it is a lot less used. Important functions of mass communication have developed: cultural promotion, informing, socializing or entertaining.

❖ **Education by Television:** It took over the transmission of information from the press, manuals, books, its development being facilitated by its popularity and intimacy. It contributed to cultural information, but also to school education. But the educational TV shows, although concentrating on a target audience cannot cover it entirely, and the education is diffuse. Instead realities that are inaccessible to direct observation are presented, educational materials are attractive because they combine images and sounds.

❖ **Education through the Internet:** It is used more and more in the present era. This type of teaching-learning from distance allows the pupils or students to access information in a much easier way, creating an own rhythm for each student. Classes are stored in the computer and multimedia messages are attractive because they mix text with pictures, sounds and even movies.

Particular forms of *eLearning* :

❖ **ECDL :**

The ECDL program was created to answer the question: « *Can you use a computer?* » The answer would be: « *Yes, I have an European Computer Driving Licence* »²⁶. In order for computer programs to be understood easier, the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) program was introduced in Romania as well. It is the most popular program of IT skills certification on basic user level, and by this a global model of participation to the Informational Society.

By now, over 4 million persons have joined the ECDL program in Europe. The European Computer Driving Licence is used and acknowledged in over 135 countries and renowned companies, in administration or prestigious education institutes. The ECDL obtained in Romania is valid in any of the 135 countries. Outside Europe the program is known as International Computer Driving Licence.²⁷

The program is conceived so as to cover a large range of aptitudes and knowledge to allow the candidates to competently operate as users in any environment that uses computers. The ECDL schedule includes not only practical aptitudes associated to some computer applications of high usage, but also a necessary and capacious base of knowledge along with the most important IT notions, that assure the candidates the possibility to apply these in their daily activities. The license for the ECDL program in Romania belongs to « The Association for Information Technology and Communication » (AIRC). It is an independent and non-governmental organization.²⁸

❖ ECDL for the blind:

According to an analysis from June 2003 by ANPH (the National Association of Disabled Persons), the most requested profession that disabled persons might work in is computer operator. So came the necessity to organize classes in this domain. A group of 15 blind people were trained and tested between June and October 2004. Already 10 of them have graduated the classes successfully, obtaining the ECDL Start license.

The classes tried to ensure general knowledge of IT, Windows operating system, text processing (Word), as well as Internet knowledge.

The program was organized by the “Association for Information Technology and Communication” in Romania (AIRC). The program faced some problems: lack of a laboratory with computers connected to the Internet that would have software designed for disabled persons.

❖ The Cisco Academies:

The Cisco program is a comprehensive e-learning program that offers students essential technological skills in knowing the way the Internet works in a global economy. Cisco Networking Academy²⁹ is a complete program about the principles and ways of planning, building and administrating a network, capable of serving national and international organizations.

On a global scale CISCO started in 1993 in planning some networks for educational institutions. They rapidly spread in all corners of the world, considering the rising need for network administration. The teaching personnel was insufficient for teaching this material so George Ward (main consulting engineer for CISCO), addressed the students. And so, classes to teach network administration were formed.

The program offers necessary knowledge for the exam: Cisco Certified Networking Associate. By this the students have higher employment opportunities or the possibility to continue technical and scientific studies. Within the classes there are practical exercises capable of covering a large

area of concepts related to: networks, wiring, but also more complex notions: dividing into sub-networks.

Cisco Certified Network Associate is a first step in obtaining the CISCO certificate. Launched in 1997, there now are over 8800 academies in 140 countries.

- The *Cyber Café* project – Access to information and communication for disabled persons in Oradea:

Cyber Café is the first project of this type in Romania, but also in Eastern Europe. It was initialized by the 'Multiple-Sclerosis Foundation of Oradea', targeted disabled persons in Bihor County in order to provide them with access to information and communication through the Internet. The project was supported and financed by a European volunteer program EVS (European Voluntariat Service) and the Internet connection provided by Romanian Data Systems Oradea.

The action is part of a project that takes place in Belgium, Germany, Poland and Russia.

Mobile telephony:

During the past years, the mobile telephony industry has raised surprisingly high, reaching over 9-10 million users. Many of them are young people, being fascinated by this area of communication. Programs in this domain that regard the youth are quite few, and the ones that exist are given by the large companies in this domain:

- **Connex Campus.**

The program is offered by the telecommunication and mobile telephony services company: CONNEX. The program is meant for students and pupils, so that they can communicate much and easier and with lower costs. The program requires the acquisition of a subscription that offers some facilities and discounts: lower prices for the subscription and for sending an SMS within the CONNEX network. It is valid for people using a pre-pay card as well.

- **Orange Student.**

The program offers the possibility of gaining discounts to some products and services in the Orange network for students. There are other discounts in some stores, bookshops, etc. The program is meant both for people with a subscription and for the ones with a pre-pay card.

3. The SWOT analysis of youth policies regarding IT&C:

1. Strengths:

- Fast development and continuous rise of the IT market in Romania,
- Increase of the involvement that the government and the society have in the IT&C domain,
- Well set objectives, according to the E.U. objectives
- High receptivity of the young people regarding the IT&C domain,
- Policies concentrating on this age group,
- Reduction of prices in this domain (computers, internet)
- Expansion of the telephony networks,
- Expansion of the Internet,

2. Weaknesses:

- Growing emphasis on the mass culture: replacement of traditional culture (theater, museums, plays).
- Unequal access to the Internet (not all people can access the Internet, mostly noticed in the rural environment)
- Precarious technological infrastructure
- Lack of teachers trained in this domain
- Reduced local possibilities to equip schools with computers
- Limited or forbidden access to the Internet for pupils in schools connected to the global network.
- High prices in the IT&C domain in comparison with the Romanian real income (even though they have been reduced recently)
- Lack of clear objectives to stop the “brain-drain” and attract the young Romanian IT specialists on the Romanian market.

3. Opportunities:

⇒ Global tendency of implementing the Informational Society,

- ⇒ The existence of funds allocated to developing states, in order to facilitate their passing to the Informational Society.
- ⇒ Technological progress on national scale,
- ⇒ Existence of human capital specialized in IT&C,
- ⇒ Long-term partnerships with international societies, meant to assure financial and technological assistance.

4. Threats:

- ◆ Reticence to change, to what is “new” in general.
- ◆ “Brain-drain”: Romanian specialists, especially the young, being attracted more by the international labor market than by the Romanian one.
- ◆ Romania’s possible failure of becoming a E.U. member.

4. Conclusions and results

Once the negotiations to join the E.U. have started, Romania has made great progress regarding the development and implementation of informatics and communications programs. If in the year 2000 the European Commission's report stated that: Romania has not made any substantial progress in the development and implementation of informatics and communication programs, in 2002 Romania temporarily closed the negotiations with the U.E. as a result of progress in IT&C. The number of communication and electronic networks services suppliers has doubled since 2003.

Due to financial and technological assistance provided by the E.U. and other international organizations, Romania managed to develop programs and strategies meant to assure the transition to the Informational Society. Management is well organized at this level, besides the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, The Information Technology Promotion Group was also formed, to approve and assure the implementation of programs.

The programs and policies have precise objectives, similar to the ones of the E.U. Most programs pursue long-term results (the Computer-Aided Educational System (the AEL system)), or even completion in the near future (« Horizon 2025 »)

Not all adopted policies are exclusively dedicated to the young, but most apply to them, because they are the target public, the group of age with the highest receptivity to the IT.

Programs managed to set the bases for an « technological ideology » namely they succeeded in making people aware of the importance of the IT development in Romania and of the implementation of the Informational Society. Further more, important steps have been taken to accomplish the objectives that these programs have. Although most of them are not finalized and will only be so in the future, Romania made great progress in the technological infrastructure and expansion of the communication networks.

Despite this, compared to the average of the developed states in Europe, Romania is still behind at this chapter. There still is a considerable part of the population not affected by these programs: 74% of Romanians do not use a computer, while the average in the central and west European countries is 51,67% (see Annex 1.)

Considering the development of technology and communications, in Romania, in 2004, - as a result of strategic objectives of IT&C policies (*Horizon*

2025, The Strategy for Promoting the New Economy) – the ensuing have been achieved :

➤ The number of mobile phone users: 9.080.354 users about 2 million more than in the year 2003. Beginning with 1996, their number has continuously increased, the mobile phone becoming a familiar « object » and absolutely necessary in daily communication.

➤ The weight of fixed-line telephony on household level : 62%, slightly rising, insignificant compared to the mobile telephony market. More people nowadays prefer a mobile phone instead of fixed-line telephony.

➤ The weight of cable TV in households: 55%, a small increase compared to 2003. It is a small value due to the inaccessibility of the cable network in areas of the rural environment.

➤ Internet users: 24%, and 28% being low frequency users. A study of GFK³⁰ also shows that, out of the people that use the Internet, 45% use it from public points of access (internet-café); 29% access it from a home computer and 26% from work. The number of Internet users is relatively small, but is estimated to rise. It has increased considerably from 1998 to the present day.

➤ Number of PCs: 2.500.000, a number that has significantly increased in the last years. This number, reported to the population, is still behind countries members of the E.U. (60%)³¹. Once integrated in the E.U. the population's income is expected to increase and as a consequence the number of computers reported to the population will rise. In 2003 the number of purchased computers rose as a consequence of prices fell due to a significant competition in the domain, but also due to expansion of the credits for general consumption items. The expansion of the Internet is correlated to the higher number of computers.

This data match the strategy adopted by the government regarding the development of IT&C. A development in the area of communication existed during the past years. The Internet appeared in Romania in 1993 and since then it has increased considerably (see Annex 2). If in 1992 2% of the population was accessing the Internet, by 2004, 24% frequently use it. Some programs had a greater impact on young people and others have peculiar characteristics, being dedicated to a smaller segment of the population.

The Computer-Aided Education System:

The program is related both to the educational reform and to the reform of IT. It is a program of long duration, with long-term conclusions. It is meant to develop practical abilities, not only theoretical ones among students. In this way, through the AEL programs and manuals, students will “face” the phenomenon, being able to get a better view and not only theoretical, of the information. Because of this the programs have a higher efficiency then the usual theory classes. They do not come to replace, but only as additional methods to traditional classes.

Presently, there are 1.902.000 beneficiaries out of whom 700.000 are students and 62.000 teachers. The system is very efficient in computerized high school admission, in the centralization of the results from the high school graduation exam. 1510 Computer laboratories with 37.150 top of the line computers were organized. The system is functional in 600 high schools connected to the Internet. 530 multimedia lessons were created, covering 40% of the school schedule. Besides these there were process simulations, interactive exercises, electronic tests. (see Annex 1.)

In 2003 68% of the high schools were connected to the Internet and only 9,8% of the elementary schools. Of the total number of educational institutions, in universities there are 16,7 computers for 100 students, in high schools the number is 11 computers for 100 students, and in elementary schools the estimated number is somewhere above 2. The number of computers connected to the internet for 100 students is smaller: 12 in universities, 7 in high schools and over 1 in elementary schools.

The “Euro200” program:

It is a program designed to aid disadvantaged young people, with low incomes, to acquire a computer and at first was a hope for many. The enthusiasm was not fully repaid because only 21% of the requests were approved. Out of 25.051 beneficiaries only 22.798 of them bought a computer. (see Annex 5.). Additionally, I consider the 200 euros aid to be insufficient for the acquisition of a new computer.

A new computer, with the configuration indicated by the program, costs about 15 million lei, approximately 400 Euros. This means that the beneficiary must add another 200 euros in order to be able to buy it. That supposes great financial efforts from the beneficiaries, as they have a low income.

By the “ECDL for the blind” program it was proved that even disabled persons can use a computer very well, in some cases, even better than others. The program is followed by some drawbacks too because few employers are aware of the possibility of hiring people with sight deficiencies and not many are willing to hire such persons. Also, the lack of special software for people with sight deficiencies hardens their access to the labor market.

The programs developed by the government are centered on ensuring access to communication and information to everyone. But, the measures were taken in the areas that already had a basic infrastructure, meaning the urban environment. Programs centered strictly on the rural environment are inexistent for now. This can help increase the existing discrepancy between the rural and the urban environment.

With the development of the communication technology came the development of mass communication, and this gave birth to mass culture. Mass communication refers to mass media, mainly television and radio. According to a

study of ICCV, initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports³², only few young people participate in traditional cultural activities (78% of the young people never go to shows: theater, concerts). 61% of the people often watch just TV shows; 48% of the young people rarely go to see theater plays. Most of them prefer to spend their free time in front of the TV. (see Annex 3.)

Question: will development of the Internet have its contribution to the emphasis of mass culture? As Bill Gates³³ said, with a developed Internet we will be able to do everything sitting in an armchair at home. On first sight it is a good thing, but what will become of our society if everybody would stay home in a chair?

It is useful that, with the implementation of the Informational Society, a vision of the Internet, with its cultural value, is also formed. The education of the population and especially of the young, in understanding that the part that the Internet plays in cultural development may be very important for the development of society. With cultural, educational websites created by professionals, many others are created that do not rise to the expectations of some professional standards. A person may see the difference between good and not so good information, but just as well, may not!

The Internet tends, more and more, to replace the traditional library. How many of us choose to look for information in a library when they have cheap and unlimited access to the Internet? Up to now, only articles, writings with a low number of pages have been posted on the Internet, but the prestige books remain in the so-called traditional libraries. Yes, there are websites that contain quality information, very good articles, but some of them are restricted to private users. Further, acquisition of data from the Internet might enhance the plagiarism that has already been propagated.

5. Annexes

Annex 1:

The Computer-Aided Education System

- 1.902.000 beneficiaries
- 700.000 students and teachers have accessed the AEL e-learning platform and the electronic didactic materials
- 857.000 primary school graduates included in the electronic high-school contest system (ADLIC) between 2001 and 2004.
- The electronic computer system centralized information on 174.000 high school graduation test candidates in 2004

- -20.000 trained teachers
- -43 man/years of effort for the implementation of the program in high schools.
 - o computer laboratories
- -37.150 top of the line computers
- -1.510 servers
- -Installation and configuration of software platforms, including educational content
- -600.000 internet-connected high schools
- -530 multimedia lessons
- -40% coverage of school curriculum
- -800 simulations of studied phenomena
- -30.000 electronic tests
- -16 general-purpose electronic dictionaries
- -3 multimedia encyclopedias
- -7 interactive computer use tutorials

Annex 2.

1. Comparative values of GDP quota for research expenses

Source: Evaluation report of the development status of Informational Society in Romania, 2003, pp.38

	Romania	Bulgaria	Poland	The republic Czech	Greece	Ireland
2002 Total population (millions)	21.8	7.2	38.6	10.2	10.6	3.9
Research Spending (% of GDP)	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.4	0.7	3.9

2. Internet connected educational institutions

Source: Evaluation report of the development status of Informational Society in Romania, 2003, pp.7

	Internet-Connected Educational Institutions	Total no. Of Educational Institutions	Percentage of connected Educational Institutions
County Inspectorates	47	47	100%
Universities	75	75	100%
High Schools	927	1.365	68%
Schools	1243	12.627	9.8%

3. Number of computers per student

Source: Evaluation report of the development status of Informational Society in Romania, 2003, pp.78

	Universities	High Schools	Schools
Number of computers/100 students	16.7	11	Estimated at over 2.0
Number of connected computers/100 students	12	7.5	Estimated at over 1.0

Annex 3.

Study made by Daedalus Consulting

Source : The Governmental Strategy for the Development of the IT Sector, pp.7.

Internet users are:

- students (44.7%)
- university graduates (27.2%)
- managers or entrepreneurs (7.4%)

The number of Internet subscriptions increases by 5-6% every month. Of all internet users, 45% are between the age of 18 and 34 and only 5% are over 45.

Annex 4.

Report of the Romanian Division of ECDL

Source: <http://www.oradea.ro/stire/Trei-sferturi-din-romani-nu-folosesc-calculatorul/157.html>

Computer usage degree in Romania is much lower than in the rest of Europe. Approximately 74% of all Romanians never use the computer, while in Central or West European countries, the average is 51,67%.

Out of a total of 17.861 educational units in Romania, only 1.365 have such equipments, differently put, 76% of schools do not have computers. Therefore, many teachers and students cannot work on a computer.

The professional categories that are supposed to promote computer education, such as teachers, have a degree of non-use above the national average. 80% of Romanian teachers never use a computer.

Annex 5.

List of beneficiaries of the *Euro200* Program (www.euro200.ro)

County School Inspectorate (ISJ)	No. of pre-university beneficiaries	No. of university beneficiaries	Total no. of beneficiaries	Total no. of purchased computers	No. of demands in pre-university education	No. of demands in university education	Total no. of demands
ISJ Alba	342	10	352	307	2077	94	2171

ISJ Arges	456	26	482	412	3279	245	3524
ISJ Arad	571	16	587	500	2375	88	2463
ISMB	573	140	713	476	4242	1231	5473
ISJ Bacau	455	6	461	416	2034	57	2091
ISJ Bihor	747	31	778	730	5541	384	5925
ISJ Bistrita-Nasaud	806	0	806	730	2957	0	2957
ISJ Braila	160	0	160	156	1030	0	1030
ISJ Botosani	1054	0	1054	988	4891	0	4891
ISJ Brasov	210	14	224	200	1184	192	1376
ISJ Buzau	424	0	424	390	1919	0	1919
ISJ Cluj	318	61	379	342	2189	560	2749
ISJ Calarasi	316	0	316	290	1410	0	1410
ISJ Caras-Severin	519	3	522	470	2575	28	2603
ISJ Constanta	240	10	250	238	1459	102	1561

a							
ISJ Covasna	340	0	340	318	1823	0	1823
ISJ Dambovi ta	581	15	596	579	3121	105	3226
ISJ Dolj	973	28	1001	965	2980	175	3155
ISJ Gorj	271	5	276	240	1103	22	1125
ISJ Galati	1051	38	1089	1012	3559	255	3814
ISJ Giurgiu	660	0	660	579	1817	0	1817
ISJ Hunedoa ra	250	10	260	224	2319	62	2381
ISJ Harghita	828	0	828	739	4286	0	4286
ISJ Ilfov	115	0	115	113	636	0	636
ISJ Ialomita	382	0	382	356	2052	0	2052
ISJ Iasi	771	30	801	760	4069	219	4288
ISJ Mehedint i	409	0	409	383	1361	0	1361
ISJ Maramur es	988	8	996	941	4328	99	4427

ISJ Mures	1027	5	1032	953	4955	77	5032
ISJ Neamt	841	0	841	811	3286	0	3286
ISJ Olt	729	0	729	688	2208	0	2208
ISJ Prahova	826	12	838	769	4825	121	4946
ISJ Sibiu	387	15	402	356	2313	119	2432
ISJ Salaj	302	0	302	273	2283	0	2283
ISJ Satu-Mare	400	0	400	375	2464	0	2464
ISJ Suceava	1373	1	1374	1319	6855	33	6888
ISJ Tulcea	602	0	602	457	2020	0	2020
ISJ Timis	457	21	478	464	2369	228	2597
ISJ Teleorman	1244	0	1244	1171	3724	0	3724
ISJ Valcea	406	0	406	293	1802	0	1802

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Notes:

¹ "Raport de Evaluare a Stadiului de Dezvoltare a Societatii Informatiionale in Romania", (2003), pg.7.

² Ibid. 1.

³ Ibid.1, pp.8.

⁴ www.mcti.ro/625.html

⁵ McQuail, 1999

⁶ Ibid. pp.23

⁷ www.ati.org.ro

⁸ "Comunicatiile si Tehnologia Informatiei in Romania", 2004, pg. 7.

⁹ "eEurope+" Action Plan, 2001, pg.2

¹⁰ Adriana Ticau, ministru MCTI, 2004

¹¹ Raport de evaluare a stadiului de dezvoltare a Societatii Informatiionale I Romania, 2003, pg.72.

¹² "eEurope+" Action Plan, 2001. pg.13.

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¹⁴ "SEI- Tehnologia Educatiei", studiu de caz.

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The Evaluation of Youth Policies. Sociological Study

The analysis of the legislation and of the social programs addressed to youth is an extremely useful step in any attempt aimed at evaluating the efficiency of youth policies, but it is also not enough. In the first part of this material, we have presented for each field, the relevant initiatives and actions of Romanian governmental and non-governmental organizations that focused on the betterment of youth's condition.

In order to have a clear picture of the success (or failure) of Romanian youth policies, it is necessary to observe the way in which the beneficiaries themselves have received and perceived these actions. We shall present in the ensuing section, precisely the results of our research in this respect.

Attempting to understand how youth received these programs basically aimed at bettering the quality of their life, we have designed and carried out a sociological research, based on qualitative methods (focus groups, profound individual interviews, case studies). On the theoretic level, we have divided youth in relevant groups – high school students, students, young people from the rural area, young people from the urban area. We extended our investigation, including parents of young high school students and high school teachers, as after the initial phase of our investigation, we have noticed that these persons represent the mediators of the implementation of youth programs and policies.

In the course of our (mainly but not only) descriptive investigation we pursued the ensuing aspects that we considered to be relevant:

- the identification of social programs and measures with high visibility among youth;
- the way in which young people evaluate youth programs;
- the degree and means of information of youth on the opportunities offered by governmental or non-governmental actions;
- the observation of local social mechanism used by youth in order to benefit from these social programs that directly target them;
- the suggestions and recommendations that youth have, relating to the qualitative improvement of youth programs and policies;
- the social problems of youth.

In the group discussions that we had with young people, we insisted on some extremely important fields (education, the situation of youth on the labor, youth delinquency, the quality of life), constantly pursuing an integrating perspective for all of them.

We also granted importance to the way in which youth programs and policies have been 'glorified' in the public sphere, the public perception on them, as well as the real effects they generated.

It is obvious that, apart from the tangible benefits bestowed upon youth, there is also a distinct component dealing with the way youth perceive the level of preoccupation for their situation that various social instances manifest, dimensions that do not always coincide. Thus, in the course of our investigation we attempted to discover those programs and policies that youth have a formed and relatively stratified opinion on. We are well aware of the fact that the means of mass communication had a very important role, generating a specific definition of youth policies.

Research Results

The visibility of youth programs and policies

Young people perceive the actions initiated and managed for their benefit on two main coordinates. On the one hand, we have nation-wide programs, coordinated by central agencies, with a national target group of beneficiaries, and on the other hand we have programs initiated and developed locally, managed by NGO's targeting a population confined to city or county level.

The former are characterized by a general perception, specific to mass media reflections (as the main source of information on the matter), while the latter benefit from a more detailed and exact insight.

The national programs referred to in the discussions we organized and that can be characterized as having an increased visibility are the *Euro 200* program for the acquisition of computers, the program for equipping schools with computers, '*Cornul si laptele*' (the *Croissant and Milk* program), the programs for stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit (facilities for starting a business), the abroad scholarships programs, alternative textbooks and the reorganization of the education system.

Local programs managed by local actors (local NGO's, local institutions or public authorities) mainly consisted of extracurricular activities, information regarding health issues, intercultural exchanges and so on.

The conclusion to be drawn is that youth have a low level of knowledge regarding the governmental measures or programs developed for them. This conclusion does not suggest that the reason of the poor information lies only in the feeble appetite youth have with respect to information, but also in the insufficient or inefficient promotion of this type of programs.

The evaluation of youth programs by their beneficiaries and specific mechanisms for their implementation

The benefic outcome of some programs was undermined by various deficiencies of implementation. Firstly, beneficiaries were held back from accessing some programs by their own perception on the stigmatization of the target group that was likely to follow. Actually, for some, becoming a beneficiary of such a program meant acknowledging an inferior status.

From the discussions we had with high school students, it became clear that the main mediators of the implementation of the program were teachers, who had the initiative of accessing the opportunities offered. We consider that in the future, for a better implementation of programs, the task of activating local networks should be assumed.

Families had a rather marginal role in the implementation of the program, from the point of view of the initiative of using the facilities offered. Parents know little about the programs developed by the government. This fact is somehow natural, considering that these programs target social strata characterized by low resources and therefore by a low level of information about public life. That is why we are witnessing a poor accessing of the programs. The main means of information about these programs was the oral one, the local network most beneficiaries are integrated in, having a fundamental role in the development of the program.

Youth demonstrate a low level of trust with respect to the intentions of these measures, considering them to be born out of the political, electoral interest of politicians. This may result in a certain apathy in using the opportunities offered.

On the other hand, youth show greater trust in programs managed by youth NGO's, especially in those set up in connection with the West, although there have been some disappointments from high school students, relating to the fairness of the accessibility of such programs.

We noticed in some university students (in Craiova) a certain perception on the limitations that the area in which they live and study impose on their chances of developing a career. They do not live in the capital, and Bucharest students have more opportunities, because there they get involved in other type of activities and are better informed: *'all connections pass through Bucharest, that's the idea'*; no matter what, in all major university centers the situation was better than in theirs, and still, there was no explanation for the fact that they decided to study in Craiova.

One problem of youth programs is the way in which they are publicized. *'There should be a better information'* (student, Cluj). These programs, students

say, cannot be efficient unless all young people know them. Informing on the programs should not be done in any way, but through *'the direct presence among youth'* (student, Cluj). Why this direct presence? Because young people watch less TV. Students in particular, watch it even less than high school students. Some of them live in dormitories and have no access to TV sets, while others simply gave up the habit (student, Bucharest). Another obstacle in the way of rendering the programs efficient would be the hard access to them. Even if its publicity is satisfactory, it would be good for youth to react, because they do not understand that *'my opinion as a young person, matters, just as your opinion matters too'*. (O. Cluj) it is not only a problem of the system, but also a problem connected to the mentality of youth who do not perceive their role in society, do not get involved, but just wait for outside help.

The success of a program also depends on the means used, if they and exist and how they are used: *'from the center, to the last units, there are probably large links that do not function'* (teacher, Bucharest). And still, there are beneficiaries, persons, institutions, schools that have been integrated in these programs.

Problems raised by youth with respect to their education

High school students we spoke with expressed their concern that the curriculum is overcharged, containing a lot of 'informational ballast' that is useless for their attempts of finding a job, or developing their career. *'We keep stumbling upon the practical side of the matters, for example in science, we study thousands of equations and formulas, when in practice we do not know what is their use and where are they deduced from.'* (S, Iasi, high school student).

Students feel the lack of practical activities from their curriculum –and even if it exists, it is not meant to facilitate their integration on the labor market.

The tendency of the Romanian school system, namely that of properly educating those very gifted in particular and not the average students in general was also emphasized. *'The Romanian school tends to be elitist; yes, there are more eminent students, but with the risk of losing on the way those who cannot keep up the pace. (...) It should not be like this... Everybody should receive an average level of education, so that everybody would be able to finish with a certain level of knowledge; it's not either eminent, either an agricultural worker...'* (Iasi, high school student)

An undesirable effect of the 10-year compulsory education, a young man described for us, consists of the deterioration of the school environment, through the existence of students that keep repeating years of study, students that have not internalized the rules of proper conduct in school: *'The new idea that came to them, was about the ten compulsory years of study... It could have remained*

eight... most of those that are now in the seventh grade and are not promoting to the next grade, will naturally have the same conduct as they did before...Vandalizing the schools, as it happened in my high school two weeks ago... in the afternoon, while there was a teacher's council, some of these students, on the third floor broke doors, ripped off window curtains, smoked and left such a...' (high school student, Iasi)

Another source of discontent that was remarked was the inconsequence of the school curriculum and the way exams are organized. There were cases when 15-year old textbooks were considered better than new ones.

Alternative textbooks are far too many and the information they offer differs. Teachers are those deciding which textbooks the students will use. Students underline the fact that in high school you learn one thing and in the graduation exam, you are sometimes asked something else and this confuses them.

It was also reported that these new textbooks have been written according to the EU model (easy style, accessible, commercial), but the requests in class are shaped in accordance with the Romanian model (ample definitions, theories etc.), a source of confusion and dissatisfaction for students.

Because the average grade obtained in high school is relevant in various degrees for the University admission contest, high school students tend to allow more importance to grades and not to the knowledge they acquire. However, the fields in which you pass the graduation exam are given more attention, while for the other fields, there is only the interest of obtaining high marks.

Students feel that the often changes in the content of the educational plan are determined by an inadequate communication between specialists in the Ministry and teachers. *'The specialists in the ministry... the Ministry of Education... should consult more with the teachers in schools... because having lost contact with the system... having been in their times teachers, but having lost contact with the system and not having a clear picture of what is going on, the people from the ministry should discuss more with the teachers that are still active...'* (S, high school student, Iasi) *'They simply guess what students need, and apply not very good measures'* (C, high school student, Iasi)

Another problem students indicated was the overcrowding of classes. The desired number for efficient teaching and studying is placed at 15.

Students also manifested their dissatisfaction with the technical fitting of school laboratories (biology, chemistry, science). The only laboratories where the situation is better are computer labs, although students expressed their discontent about restricted Internet access.

'M: Many of my colleagues in the ninth grade have no idea what a biology or chemistry lab is.... for them it's just a room with earthenware desks...'

N: *Everywhere it's the same... it's just regular class... I never go to the chemistry lab to experiment, but to study Math, Romanian...*

L: *Labs are now simple classrooms, because they are not properly fitted...*

G: *Last year when there was the national chemistry school contest, the teacher asked for our help... if we could donate materials... they simply did not have the necessary instruments. Since the communist regime fell, no money was received to fit the labs with materials, instruments or anything.*

Al: *Thing is that if somebody brings something extra, immediately somebody stands up and says it's too much and it will be taken...*

Ad: *We bring from home... a board... a test-tube...*

School libraries are considered to be relatively poor fitted, especially in some regions, such as Moldavia:

'C: *Very, very weak....*

G: *Not to mention the schools, but the central library...*

M: *Books that exist are worn off...*

G: *Not necessarily worn off, but you search a book, they don't have it, don't have the author... For example I wanted to get a book to learn Flash, and I eventually found it in a book store at over one million lei...*' (Iasi, high school students)

There is a controversy among young people regarding private alternative lessons. Although generally seen as a useful way to clarify the knowledge inadequately presented in school due to objective conditions (noise, limited time of the teachers, disturbance by mobile phones, etc.) there were cases of discontent based on the fact that sometimes the evaluation in school is related with participation in these paid private lessons.

Most of the students are against this 'industry', as it was called, where teachers connect the obtaining of a passing grade with the participation in these paid classes. *'In the eight grade I failed at Math in the first semester, because of the teacher. I had some family difficulties and could not attend the private classes anymore so I told the teacher I wanted to stop, so he failed me in school. In the second Semester I resumed his private classes.'* (Iasi, high school student)

It has been also brought into discussion the issue of the educational system restructuring. In the opinion of some high school students as well as some specialized persons, the content of the educational curricula is overloaded. The teaching subjects are considered to be too many and too diversified. This situation is amplified by the existence of alternative text books which offer dissimilar information that can not be structured. Thus, the problem arises that at *"the Final Examination you are asked to write what you have learned from a certain book and you don't know"* (student, Cluj). There are some teaching subjects of no

interest for most of the high school students and in spite of the fact that some of these subjects are optional “you are constrained to choose one” (student, Sibiu). The lack of interest shown by some students/pupils in these teaching lines can also be observed: “*children are disoriented*” (parent, Bucharest).

In the opinion of some students, introducing computers in schools was a process made in an inequitable manner. The best computers “*were given to the secretary office, to the headmaster’s office, to teachers, and only what was left arrived at the school laboratories*” (student, Sibiu). Even though there are computers in schools, not all the children have access to them or they have just a limited access. Software has been created for the preparation of a computerized education, a great amount of money being spent on its acquisition. However, it is usually obtained through “*some particular teachers’ dedication and not through a centralized measure*” (teacher, Bucharest).

The high school students and students observed that extra-curricular, voluntary activities “*supplement the education received in school*” (student, Cluj) and help them put into practice their knowledge, “*we learn how to elaborate a project, how to work with people*” (student, Sibiu). More than that, they are able to develop an “*international thinking*” (student, Cluj) through collaboration with young people from other countries. Communication is facilitated and they can even develop relationships with other people or firms.

Invited to imagine themselves “Ministers of Education”, the students and high school students came with various interesting solutions for making the Romanian educational system more efficient. A lot of these solutions refer to teachers, “*to be paid for what they do and to be the best*” (student, Cluj). In order to have a more efficient educational system we should have a better communication between schools, ministry, “*I would make all the educational institutions communicate better, the school inspectorate with the university*” (student, Sibiu). A better communication with firms, companies, etc. is also desirable. “*Because companies need this, the educational system should also change according to the firms’ needs.*” (student, Cluj)

The faculty level of education should be promoted as elite education, which can be achieved only by the most competent people, and not as a mass level of education in which “*only if you do not want, you do not get a faculty degree*” (O. Cluj). There are not too many quality people, “*many students take university courses just in order to get a diploma*” (student, Sibiu).

The human resources existing in the educational system are also problematic, because old teachers have the control, they will not fire each other in order to let the younger ones replace them. They even continue to work after their retirement and this is why, in many cases, “*there are teachers who don’t belong there*”. Younger teachers should come in their places if the older ones are not able to adapt, because it is necessary “*to teach a subject as closer to our times as possible...*” All of them say that they could not make a change and bring

younger teachers *“because the majority of them are old and they are scared that in the moment they throw somebody out”* all of them will have to leave.

The teaching subjects are also thought of to be out of date, students and high school students wish to study subjects *“like those from other countries”* and to have the opportunity to choose what subjects to study. In other countries, each student can choose what he/she wants to study – they heard about this and embraced the idea. Students and high school students are also opened to the idea of specialization beginning with the third year of study and they would like to have courses that take into account their different capacities.

In order to synthesize, we can say that the main problems mentioned by the high school pupils were the following: providing an adequate educational environment, increasing the teachers' salaries, the improvement of the courses' quality, the overloaded curricula, the stability of the taught contents and final evaluation methods, the improvement of communication between ministry and school, increasing of the allowance, the renovation of schools.

The Labor Market

Students and high school students have a relatively pertinent perception of the access criteria to the labor market. Both students and high school students appreciate the main requirements at a job interview as being: foreign languages, IT knowledge and communication abilities. Regarding the means through which they can obtain information about the potential jobs after their graduation, the youth thinks at people it knows and newspapers as sources of information. People youngsters know are considered to be the safest source of information and facilitation in finding a job. Public institutions working with the placement of work force benefit of a very low level of trust among the youth. They are usually associated with the idea that they offer only jobs for persons with no education or with medium levels of education and that you can not find there an appropriate job for your competencies.

There is a difference between the youth's perceptions and those of the specialized persons. Young people consider that internet is an extremely useful source of information because you can find a lot of information very quickly and even information *“already written in an electronic form”* (high school student, Cluj). The specialized persons with whom we discussed look at this domain with a certain restraint, because *“here it interferes the capacity of discerning which information is useful or true and what is wrong”* (O.Cluj).

After graduation, most of them do not think they will work in the same subject area, at least in the first phase. During the discussions we had, they expressed their concerns regarding the finding of a job adequate to their professional competences and they were, in general, disposed to work in another field.

The majority of the youth thought about the possibility of opening own businesses. They heard about the facilities provided by the Government in order to support students with the payment of taxes for setting up a firm. However, they considered it to be quite hard to succeed in this area because of the lack of a starting capital. The most demanded domains on the labor market are considered to be: IT, services and engineering.

We discussed with young people who had opened a firm, productive or not, however an existing firm. Nevertheless, the career development in this direction seems for many of them a highly difficult path because you need to have connections, a starting capital and you are confronted with the eternal bureaucracy: *“to fill in a lot of papers”, “to apply the papers”* (student, Sibiu).

The labor market domain is strongly bounded to that of education, young persons understanding this correlation as well. We found a lot of opinions regarding the practical inefficiency of the subjects studied in school, because these subjects help you with “10%” of the difficult task of finding a job. *“It depends on luck and relations”*, but they admit that a part of the problem is their: *“we are quite lazy, we prefer to wait for opportunities to come to us and then comment”*.

During faculty one develops a certain way of thinking, but *“after you graduate you have few alternatives”* (student, Cluj). Education is seen as a supporting point, having mostly a guiding role. It is also very important the way in which you apply the knowledge gained in faculty. The students are aware of the fact that not only the experience accumulated outside the courses can help them find a job. *“It also depends on the way you behave during an interview, on how dynamic you are.”* (Student, Sibiu)

“They are not interested in the fact that you graduated or in how important your CV is. What counts is the kind of man you are and how well you fit in there” (student, Cluj).

Some students expressed their concerns that jobs are taken by employee relatives: *“I have found out that the position I was applying for had been given to a nephew”* and that *“connections work”*. In spite of this, they are optimistic regarding their chances of finding a job because *“it depends on what the person that hires you wants; he/she wants the connection who does not know anything or he/she wants a capable person”*; they are encouraged by the fact that *“these connections go back to the state period”*.

When they were offered a 500 Euro/month job at the expense of quitting faculty huge debates took place. Overall, most of them were tempted by the offer

and declared that *“faculty works in the end”*, or that they would freeze the study year. However, they were also students declaring that it's not worth the price and that *“one has to know his/her priorities”*.

Juvenile Delinquency

Most of the youngsters have asserted during the discussions that the main reasons behind the existence of young people breaking the law, reside in the education received in the family, peer group, financial difficulties and a certain genetic predisposition.

We encountered several opinions concerning education and delinquency: *“Everything starts with education”* (O.Cluj) even with the primary socialization. It does not matter that much whether you are rich or poor, one encounters different situations where rich people have committed crimes: *“It was a caprice, a stupid show-off”* (student, Sibiu). On the other hand, the poor would not steal if they thought *“why take his wallet when tomorrow I receive my salary”* (student, Bucharest). The lack of a job can generate delinquency.

The necessity of having a psychological advisor in schools was also signaled: *“when a peculiar behavior of a pupil is being noticed he/she is being sent towards the advisor”*

Most of the students have no knowledge of governmental measures or NGO programs aiming at diminishing delinquency rate. Overall, the proximity police and the public guardians are known but only a part of the respondents have mentioned them. The solutions they offered concerning juvenile delinquency tackles the improvement of the legal framework, securing a job for the freed delinquents' professional re-qualification programs.

Recommendations and Guidelines Concerning Youth Policies in Romania

- ⇒ The explicit assuming, as central national goal, of the youth policies in Romania.
- ⇒ A broader campaign for making people aware through improving the communication means and strategies of the youth social programs by the public institutions that created them.
- ⇒ Enhancing the partnership between the central public authorities and the representatives of the local communities as regard the implementing of the social programs and approaches for the youth (local public authorities, schools, etc.)
- ⇒ Involving the NGOs (fully or in part) for managing some aspects of the youth programs.

- ⇒ Granting the suggestions from the main beneficiaries a special attention as regard the creating of the youth policies through creating and developing permanent studies.
- ⇒ It is desirable for the reform of the education system in Romania to have in view the correlation of its quality standards with labor market requests, especially the ones of the private sector that's growing permanently.
- ⇒ Integrating the communication campaigns as part of the youth policies for implementing them successfully and for avoiding the cases of potential beneficiaries excluded due to some psycho-social mechanisms (stigmatizing, the fault of relevant information, etc.)
- ⇒ Increasing the active policies of integrating on the labor market of the youth.
- ⇒ Involving the organizations of the civil society and of the local community in implementing the programs and approaches for stimulating the involvement of the youth on the labor market.
- ⇒ Making people aware of the approaches and programs for integrating on the labor market of the youth through adequate communication campaigns (many youngsters have a vague knowledge of the opportunities these programs offer, thus having them in view minimally).
- ⇒ Supporting the reform of the education system for its correlation to the new requirements of the labor market characterized especially by the private sector as regard supplying jobs.
- ⇒ Supplying opportunities for developing attractive careers in Romania for the youngsters having important school achievements.



Case study 1 – Student Associations

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Case Study 2 – Youth Program

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Case study: 3 – Pupil Associations

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Case study 1

Student Associations

A.S.U.B. – Asociatia Studentilor in Universitatea Bucuresti

Student Association – University of Bucharest

General data

Date of establishment – 17 May 1999

Leadership – President: Florin Marius Ion

Vice-President: Florentin Serban

Secretary General: Relu Giuca

Type of the Organization:

A.S.U.B. is a student association, the only representative one within the University of Bucharest at this time. It is a juridical private person with no patrimonial purpose, independent and non-political. A.S.U.B. reunites student clubs existent at faculty level in the University of Bucharest, such as:

1. The Faculty of Law: President – Radu Ionescu
2. The Faculty of Philosophy: President – Sorin Manica
3. The Faculty of Psychology: President – Violeta Caragea
4. The Faculty of Sociology: President – Vali Raducanu
5. The Faculty of Journalism: President – Lavinica Mitu
6. The Faculty of Public Administration: President – Victor Oprea
7. The Faculty of Geography: President – Florentin Serban
8. The Faculty of Geology: President – Robert Roca
9. The Faculty of Mathematics: President – Camil Moldoveanu
10. The Faculty of Chemistry: President – Silviu Nastase
11. The Faculty of Physics: President – Bogdan Dogaru
12. The Faculty of Biology: President – Relu Giuca
13. The Faculty of Orthodox Theology: President – Ionel Iacob

The total number of faculties in the University of Bucharest is 18.

A.S.U.B. has the following administrative bodies:

The president: is elected from Executive Committee members on a determined period of one year. He has the right to a maximum of two consecutive mandates. Any member of the Executive Committee, who has been elected President of A.S.U.B., loses the right to represent his student club as president. The president of A.S.U.B. is also the president of the Executive Committee.

The Vice-President: is elected from the members of the Executive Committee. His mandate is one year long. He can have a function in his student club.

The Secretary General: is elected from the members of the Executive Committee. His mandate is for one year. He can have a function in his student club.

The executive committee: is made up of all the presidents of the student clubs that are part of A.S.U.B.. They have the right to vote for all decisions regarding A.S.U.B. activities; they can have functions in the executive committee.

The General Assembly: is made up of all the members of the student clubs that are part of A.S.U.B.. Gathering once a year is a must. It approves the strategies proposed by the executive committee, the adjustments or the changing of the statute. It has the right to suspend the president of A.S.U.B. in certain cases.

The members of the organization: the students of the University of Bucharest may become members A.S.U.B. through a membership request form that will be approved at each student club. The membership fee, although it has to be established by A.S.U.B. is practically established at the student club level. This members have the statutory right to participate at all A.S.U.B. activities, to be involved in ASUB programs, but most of the times, 95% of the cases, members activities end before they have begun. They are mostly passive members that sign a paper because a colleague asks them. Two or three student clubs have cases of simple students asking to join the organization. At ASUB level active members number vary between 5-6 and 25 persons, depending on the projects the association runs at the time. The number of members declared by ASUB is 6 000 students.

The organization philosophy

ASUB was born as a 'trade-union' association with a view in defending and representing the students of the University of Bucharest.

During 5 years of activity ASUB evolved from this state to an organization that runs programs on how to spend leisure time and lately focused on non-formal education programs (trainings, conferences, seminars).

ASUB has declared itself as the only representative organization in the University of Bucharest and often its tendency became a national one as a very important organization with important points of view that were considered the main ones by the mass media that covers the students area.

ASUB's main activity is the concern for the social problems of youth (accommodation, discount of the transport commutation and scholarships).

ASUB's mission:

ASUB's declared mission is multi directed, with one purpose, to maximize students' resources and potential. For this reason, many other directions may be uncovered, although others exist and have been very well defined by association actions:

1. Facilitation of access to programs for youth professional development in areas like: elaborating projects, communication, and human resources; and supporting students for entering the labor force market.
2. Creating a firm communication environment between students' representatives and Government officials.
3. ASUB participation in negotiations for the imposition and protection of Romanian students' rights.
4. Civic implication of the students that now represent the best category for changing ideology, values and the sense of national freedom.
5. Promoting and defending students' interests and rights at university level, national and international level.

Available resources:

Human resources: the numbers vary between 5-6 and 25 persons. In each student club, the number of members may vary between 2-3 and 35-40 students.

Material resources: ASUB has a head office within the Rector's offices of the University of Bucharest, room 123, sector 5, Bucharest

It also administers two centers that host various activities:

Romanian Youth Policies

- InfoCenter- Cămin D, Grozăvești Campus, sector 6, Bucharest – computer center, equipped with PC-s and internet access intended up to July 2004 to free access to all students of the Bucharest University.
- InfoAcademic- Cămin A, Grozăvești Campus, sector 6, Bucharest – center with a library and numerous pc-s connected to the internet for ASUB's current activities. The University of Bucharest put the centers at ASUB's disposal, they were completely furnished, while the PC's came from the Ministry of Education and Research.

Informational resources: All ASUB centers have at their disposal access to the Internet; the head office is equipped with a private phone line and a fax.

Time resources: The association activates on the entire period of the year with little fluctuations due to the academic year structure. None of the organization members has a tight schedule, members activity is volunteer and is approximately between 1 and 4 hours weekly, according to every members availability.

Financial resources: ASUB is a nongovernmental organization, with no patrimonial purposes, so it cannot obtain financial benefit from its actions.

ASUB projects that require financing were realized mostly with the support of civil society members, who offered under the form of donation or sponsorship the necessary resources. The association also accessed governmental and international grants for financing those projects that proved to be eligible.

Accomplishments

1. Organizing the student festival UNIFEST since 2001, when the festival was organized only in Bucharest. Presently the festival is a national one, organized by several Students Associations and governmental institutions in the main educational centers all over the country, at the beginning of each academic year.

2. "The Future of Europe" conference, London, 2001. ASUB students represented Romania and the University of Bucharest within the UNICA conference that debated on the future of Europe.

3. InfoCenter – the inauguration of the second ASUB center brought to the students in the Bucharest University the opportunity of free access to PC and Internet. The center is placed inside a campus, it has 25 top of the line PC's, it is properly furnished and is assisted by professionals. All those things made the center very popular.

4. "Students Spring" – With the experience of the Unifest festival, ASUB joined the Agency for Youth Support and organized an event exclusively destined to students. Outdoors concerts, parties, theatre, painting, caricatures and literature. This event was organized for the promotion of new talents.

5. "Students Job Fair" – December 2003 – event made under the patronage of the Bucharest University, in collaboration with the Association for Social Development and the Association for the Development of Human and Social Capital, proposed to young students various opportunities of getting hired in famous firms, multinational companies, local and central public institutions, publications etc. The organizers managed to involve employers that offered about 1000 jobs, in various areas, thus answering students necessity of finding a job or entering a probation. The number of participating students was 5000, during one day.

6. "The School of Projects" – project realized in collaboration with the University of Bucharest and the Agency for Supporting Youth Initiatives evolved as a weekend school between the 17th of April and the 2nd of June. The specializations were Organization Management, Project Elaboration Management, International Financing Sources. Following this the event, 60 of young students took basic notions from the organizational area and learned how to transform the idea in profitable projects. The knowledge acquired was certificated of a diploma granted by the Ministry of Education.

7. "Infoacademic" - having the experience of Infocenter and noticing the growth of youth's interest in information, ASUB with the help of the Bucharest University, inaugurated the second center for students. Besides the endowments of which Infocenter benefits, Infoacademic offered students in U.B. the possibility of accessing the books of ASUB library, organizing conferences, debates or programs of training, in the existing space.

8. "The new faces of Europe. Widening horizons" - having at its basis the theme of becoming aware of the European citizenship, the activities of Youth European Forum unfurled during eight days, in the period 24-31 the July 2004, in Brasov and Bucharest. Young men from six European countries: Romania, Spain, Belgium, Italy, France and Germany participated to lectures, debates on the theme of europeanship and to workshops. Specific activities were blended with field trips to Sighisoara, Bran Castle as well as visits in places of cultural and historical importance from Brasov and Bucharest. The organized project of ASUB with the Bucharest University and E. D. I. W.(Education for an Interdependent World) financed through the program Youth of the European Commission and from the governmental fated backgrounds of the projects of youth.

9. Lecture "Unity and Diversity in Europe" - Amsterdam 2004- 10 students of the Bucharest University, most of them A SUB members, represented Romania and the university as part of an international conference of UNICA. For the second time in two years ASUB successfully approached culture, education, tradition and the national experience of a European identity.

ASUB dedicates its whole activity to students from Bucharest University in a direct way and to all youth indirectly.

All the projects ASUB initiated or got involved in, the permanent negotiations in which it participated with local and central authorities, the activity developed as member of the Students Union of Romania until January 2005 and the good cooperation it achieved with the University of Bucharest transformed ASUB into a professional organization, developed both on the 'trade-unionist' side (the representation and the defense of students' interests) and on the academic side. These two directions defined the association image, as being one that fights for the civic involvement of youth at all the levels, for their professional development, for academic formation of Romanian educational system and for the lift to international standards.

The efforts of ASUB were frequently hardened by the absence of the national programs for youth, supposed to render efficient the initiatives, but also in this respect, ASUB did stepped forward, always pointing out to the Ministry of education the problems students encountered. Some of the facilities that Romanian students now enjoy are in a considerable degree the direct or indirect result of ASUB's initiatives.

ASUB represents the model of an NGO that moved over the conventional barriers and imposed itself with courage, respect and innovation standing out from most similar NGO's. The intelligent use of funds and the development of every person's potential made that the team in ASUB attain all goals they imposed on themselves, even when these goals seemed to have been set too high. Currently ASUB has the capacity to mobilize the community and to stir up the interest of other organizations.

The idea behind ASUB is one with positive results; the performances were quantifiable after the first two or three years of activity. ASUB was not an original idea, having behind examples such as the 'Students' League', but explored uncharted territories, areas such as the social, the politic, the economic or the administrative etc. For the time being it is the only organization of this type in the University of Bucharest.

The weaknesses of the association are the ensuing:

- the absence of a pre-established calendar of activities.
- the skepticism with which the association is looked upon by the students from the Bucharest University in their majority.
 - the inexistence of an unitary system of choices of representatives in each faculty.
 - the lack of partnerships with other organizations of youth from other academic centers constituted on national level.
 - has no international partnerships.
 - they have no stable partnership with the private environment.
 - the lack of an own income of which the association acts for the current expenditures(the voluntary pay, paper, printing of posters, brochures, etc.)
 - the multiple directions of the projects developed by ASUB (social, cultural, academic, entertainment).
 - no background for internal and external movements.
 - small number of active members, reported to the size of the association.

All the achievements of ASUB relate to important factors such as: The proper internal environment, the inertia of an similar organizations on local level, youth's interest of dedicating their time, energy, will and soul in a initiative. One may say that this model can never be copied, but it shall be adapted and upgraded.

Case Study 2

Youth Program

The Student Job Fair -2004

Organized by the Agency for Students' Support

General Data

The Agency for Students' Support (ASS) is a governmental organization. (ASS) is organized in departments, taking into account the responsibilities established by the Founding Decision of Government. (See Annex 1, ASS organizational sheet)

The Agency employs ten persons in various positions. The Council Board is composed by a Director, an Assistant - Director and a Chief Accountant. Financial resources come from the state budget.

The target of ASS is represented by the students of public and private Universities. The nature of activities provides:

- Fundament and elaborate studies and researches, analyses and prognoses regarding students' problems;
- Elaborate and implement the rehabilitation strategy and the development of the student summer camp system for students of accredited State and private university Institutions;
- Assure the organization and administration of students camps;
- Coordinates and evaluates the good application of specific activities of the Student's Cultural House and of the "TEI" Cultural and Sportive Student Complex from Bucharest;
- Elaborates and puts into practice national and international programs for students' interest;
- Supports the orientation, training and professional perfection of students;
- Edits, produce and diffuse specific materials, having utile information for students and for institutions and associative students structures involved in specific students activity;

The goals of the project were the ensuing:

The project analyzed in that case study is “Student Job Fair” This represents a program initiated by ASS in 2003 in Bucharest. The positive impact of the event and the students and partners interest for this kind of event determined the organization of Student Job Fair at national level starting with 2004.

This project came to meet students’ increasing demand of jobs and to aid youth in their permanent need to evolve. The great participation of students to similar actions organized until now, determined a permanent organization of this event.

The goals are:

- To inform about services and possibilities concerning the job positions offer;
- To support the students that want to find an adequate job position;
- To stimulate the youth participation at economic and civil life;
- To minimize the risk factors that stimulate the marginalizing and social exclusion of youth;
- To facilitate the connection between employer and employee, through direct meeting, in an organized context;
- To prepare students for job interviews.

The partners involved in the organization of this event were: the National Authority for Youth, the National Agency for the Occupation of the Labor Force, Student’s Cultural Houses, Local Agencies for the Occupation of the Labor Force, Universities and student organizations.

The financial support came from the own resources of ASS and also from the partners of the event. (Best Jobs, Universities, media partners)

The partners of the event, the dimension of their involvement and the socio-economic context determined the necessity of the project and its great development. The organization was carried out on national level and was integrated in the general line of governmental efforts (and not only) for the creation of an appropriate professional and personal development context for students.

Young people at the start of their career had the opportunity to become familiar with the activity of a company, with the elements that define the departments of activity into an organization.

The career concept is based on the idea to choose out of a large area of action possibilities the one that suits you most, that expresses yourself in the best way and that match with your desires and general life targets.

It is a concept that found its meaning into a market economy where there is a large variety of offer, where the changing rhythm is rapid and an education and

tradition regarding the best utilization of economic and professional information, exists. Career is indeed, the exercise of personal choice.

Putting the spotlight on famous companies, presenting the evolution, necessities, and responsibilities, represented a way of informing students on how to choose their career.

The direct beneficiaries of the program were:

- Accredited state and private University students, of all years of study;
- Institutions, companies and organizations from field of professional orientation and conversion.
- The indirect beneficiaries of the program were:
- The large public interested in the internal working market;
- Professional organizations with specific preoccupations;
- Mass-media.

The project's content, departments and partners were changed from year to year, as an adaptability reaction for the necessities identified among students.

At the end of the 2004 edition of the "Student Job Fair", on national level there were selected for work 8196 students. Among these, 590 students received a job on the spot.

Results

At the Fair participated 870 economic agents that offered 9619 job positions. The Fair was organized in 25 university centers and involved 20283 students. Most of the selected students were from Constanta (1674), Timisoara(873), Bacau(536), Pitesti (419), Cluj-Napoca(416) and Bucharest (400).

The most jobs were occupied in the following university centers: Iasi (205 job positions on the spot), Constanta (103), Arad (58), Craiova (57), Oradea (44), Alba Iulia (21).

Plus, regarding the exact situation of the employments on the spot, a number of 10000 students participated in workshops, specific seminars and they had been involved in simulating interview processes.

The students' need to get employed, to have a professional evolution, an adaptability at the society's characteristics, the interest of the employers concerning young people, determine the continuous organization of this event on national level.

The Agency for Students' Support, through its employees, has the capacity to implement this project and to mobilize the necessary resources on national level, in order to achieve the objectives set for this project.

Identifying student's problems and solving them through the projects realized by ASS represent one of the objectives of the Agency. The capacity of realizing this kind of projects depends on the team's ability to mobilize and on the socio-economic and organizational context (the initial support received from the authorities that coordinate and evaluate the activity of ASS). ASS may develop projects in partnership with superior forums (National Authority for Youth), but in this case the efforts are increased both financially and legally.

Case Study 3**High School Students' Association**

L.A.I.C. – (Liga Elevilor din Ioan Cuza)

Youth organization, representative for the students of 'Al. I. Cuza' High School – Bucharest.

General Data

The organization does not have a clearly settled structure, the guidance group being formed of five teachers who are the leaders of all the actions that the club promotes and initiates.

At the present the club has 39 active members, but as it was founded in 2000, we can say that it had several generations of members. At the beginning the association had a number of 5 persons, represented 'Al. I. Cuza' high school at many local competitions. Due to the popularity and success, this team enlarged and became a club of high school pupils, expanding its activity and involving in many projects.

The association is lead by Mrs. Gabriela Zainescu, teacher of economy. She is also the initiator of this project and the person who gives continuity to the activities by attracting new members. The head office of the club is in the high school and it is equipped with computers connected to the Internet, Xerox and printing machine, resources which provide for the development of the daily activities. For any other activities the club can also use the other resources of the high school including the financial resources.

The initiative group had at first the purpose of representing the high school at the regional debate competitions. In time, the goal and objectives of L.A.I.C. association had a significant development directly related to the activity carried on. Now the general goal of the club is representing the high school and its pupils at the competitions of any kind: sport, artistic competitions, and debate competitions, at the regional level as well as at the national and international level. Secondly, this organization promotes any kind of educational activity, initiated within the high school or assigned to pupils, with relaxing or social purpose. It also supports and encourages the pupils' implications in all the previous actions. It sustains the active participation of young people in the society; it aims at the assurance of child's rights and of the order fundamental rights such as: the right of proper and complex information, the right of free expression, association and the right of proper education.

Achievements

The most significant achievements of the club are the awards gained in different competitions:

- Third place at the local debate competition “For or Against Romania“- 2001;
- First place at the competition “Free to debate” for Bucharest and third place at the same competition at the whole country-2002;
- Third place at the Football Championship between high-schools-2002;
- Medals at the National and International Olympic Competition between 2000-2004:
- 4 gold medals: Physics-2000, Russian language-2001, Informatics-2001, 2002;
- 2 silver medals: Russian language-2000, Informatics-2003;
- 1 bronze medal: Informatics-2004.
- Advancement to the national phase of applicable economy competition of the L.A.I.C. team;
- The publishing of the cultural magazine “Oglinda” (The Mirror) between 2002-2003;
- The carrying on the “Pupil Company” project for the development of the entrepreneurial abilities of pupils, in cooperation with “Juniors Achievements” in 2001;
- Participation of the Children Theatre Festival, forth editions 2002, with a modern and adapted way of the “Alchemist” play.

The majority of the projects had as target public young persons aged between 14 and 18 tears. The activities are carried on in the curricular and extracurricular environment where young high-school pupils activate.

The nature of the activities is closely related to the fields of interests of the pupils and to their wishes; the main result of every action is the implication of the young persons in social activities, their integration in an active environment the elimination of the anxiety caused by the physical and psychological change of young persons and the enhancement of the awareness towards the civil society.

The organization **did not have special ideological or material problems along time; it was supported by the represents of the high school** and also by other authorities. The main public institutions which collaborated with the L.A.I.C. club where the Scholar Inspectorate of Bucharest, the Ministry of Health

and Family, the Ministry of Young People and Sport, Juniors Achievement, “ALIAT “ Non-governmental Organization and other members of the civil society which supported the action of the implication of L.A.I.C. in specific activities. Most of the financing was from the funds of the high school, as donations or as sponsoring from natural or legal person. The club did not have any governmental or international financing.

The organization and its members contribute towards the national efforts of involving youth in civic education and in acknowledging the moral and culture values. Unfortunately, the development of the club, **the enlargement of the activity area is not stipulated on the list of future objectives**. This fact is due partially to the permanent change of the member generations, the only element of continuity being the teachers. The program is suitable for the target group and reflects its needs, the club being nothing but the most efficient modality a group of young persons with common needs, interests and objectives chose to express and act.

Conclusion

This club was not the first initiative of this type, many other clubs exists at least at the local level (Bucharest). The necessary resources, besides the human and informational ones, are minimal, sometimes the high school can totally provide for it. The modal can easily be applied, the possible results are incontestable, and the “scenario” can be adapted to the different needs. This type of association represents a project with a high potential, its development being possible with every implication of the non-governmental organizations, of the members of the private area or of the governmental officials.

The innovation of this fact stands in the creation of an educational alternative, an active civic education, the access to a non-formal education, the encouragement of the exchange of experience and the development of the competition spirit. It addresses itself totally to young persons aged between 14 and 18 years, making them eliminate the conventional approaches and the constraints generate by the authority and use any available resources for achieving the goals.

The organization has human resources; this fact is not a problem. It has the power of helping other clubs with similar activities, but only on the local level. The organization does not have a long term plan of action, the main cause of this fact being the continuity of a generation within the club, which normally does not exceed 2 school years. The activity of the club is always adapted to the necessities and claims of its members, being a proper environment for observing the changes in mentality that appeared with the change of generations.

The L.A.I.C. club is a good model concerning the civic extra-curricular activities. The factors which determined the formation of this club where mainly the necessity of representation and belonging to a social group. People who

understand these needs, teaches with a spirit of initiative, pupils with a determination specific to their age where the main promoters of this kind of project.

The durability in time was provided by the high interest towards the aptitudes and abilities of every young person, by the natural desire of being informed and of being a part of the social environment.

The project can be adapted and repeated in other locations; it is a good formation exercise. It can also be amplified after the necessities of every community.

The pupils of the L.A.I.C. club represents an interesting example in the domain of the civic implication and of the alternative at the formal education.



1. PRO-YOUTH OBJECTIVES

Pro Youth's primary set of objectives is to:

- 1. Define the role and statute of youth in our society, as well as to define the responsibilities youth have to society and society has to youth.*
- 2. Promote the active participation off youth in civil society and in all decisions that regard them.*
- 3. Develop a system of cultural, educational, professional and economic benefits for youth.*
- 4. Stimulate youth to participate in voluntary service.*

Pro Youth's secondary objectives are to:

- 1. Identify the needs and the aspirations of youth, in order to assure equal opportunities regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or religion.*
- 2. Periodically evaluate Romanian youth policies with respect to youth policies carried out at the international level.*
- 3. Facilitate the access of youth to information, as well as to guarantee correct and objective information.*
- 4. Better the relationship between local and national youth authorities and youth.*

Pro Youth's tertiary objectives are to:

- 1. Promote youth structures, programs and services.*
- 2. Stimulate youth civic involvement.*
- 3. Watch over the defense of human rights, especially in what the youth is concerned.*
- 4. Defend and promote the aspirations and goals of students, as a particular group.*

COUNCIL BOARD

President: Marian RUJOIU
Vice-President: Antonio CIOCAN-FONTANINE
Research Executive: Iulia NANU
Chief Technology Officer: Bogdan DOBRICA

Click on the www.royp.org to see the resume.

- 1. The Council Board is made up of four persons and it is elected by the General Assembly.*
- 2. The Council Board is in charge of executing the decisions of the General Assembly and has the following responsibilities:*
 - a) To make sure that the provisions of the statute are respected;*
 - b) To write periodical reports on the status of the association;*
 - c) To approve the internal organizational plan of the association as well as its personnel policy;*
 - d) To calculate the budget of the association;*
 - e) To forward the proposition for modifying the statute to the General Assembly;*
 - f) To sign juridical acts for and in the name of the association*
 - g) To forward the proposition to liquidate the association;*
 - h) To accept new members and excludes them;*
 - i) To establish the membership fee;*
 - j) To elaborate and modifies the internal regulation of the association;*
 - k) Any other responsibility established by the decisions of the General Assembly or by the present statute;*
- 3. The mandate of the members of the Board is two years long;*
- 4. The Council Board appoints one of its members as President of the association, and also appoints other members to take the other executive functions stipulated in the statute or in the internal regulations of the association;*
- 5. The Board may include persons that are not members of the association, but only up to 1/4 of its overall composition.*
- 6. The Council Board may decide to change the head office.*
- 7. The Board holds meetings on a monthly basis, discusses the problems and the activities of the association, as well as the new actions proposed by members.*
- 8. The meetings of the Council Board are to be considered valid when a majority of 2/3 of its members is present. Decisions are made with absolute majority, excepting those on issues that according to the present statute require a qualified majority.*
- 9. In case no majority is established and the vote is equal, the President's opinion prevails.*

10. *The Council Board may award executive functions to one or more persons, non-members included, in order to carry out the decisions of the General Assembly. These functions are to be established by the internal regulation of the association.*

11. *The Council Board may at any time be dismissed by a decision of the General Assembly, taken with a 2/3 majority.*

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STATUTE

Chapter I

GENERAL DISPOZITIONS

Art. 1 The Name

- 1. The association shall be called 'Pro Youth'.*
- 2. In all official acts, advertisements or mail issued by the association, its name will be followed by reference to its head office.*
- 3. The Council Board shall approve any usage of the association's name by individual members in any documents or activities they may perform.*

Art.2 The Juridical Form

- 1. The association is a Romanian, non-profit juridical person, independent and non-governmental, established under the provisions of Government Order no. 26/2000, revised by the Government Order no. 37/2003.*
- 2. The association shall operate with respect to and under the regulation of these legal acts and the present statute.*

Art.3 The Head Office

- 1. The association's head office is Room 311, 36-46 Mihail Kogalniceanu Boulevard, sector 5, Bucharest, Romania, 050107.*
- 2. The association may establish local branches in any Romanian city that has higher education institutions.*
- 3. The association may set up economic units, with respect to Government Order no. 26/2000, art. 47-48.*

Art. 4 Duration

- 1. The association shall be established and shall be financed to perform on an indefinite period of time. Its activity shall begin once the association is registered in the Register of Associations and Foundations, according to the dispositions of the Court of Law that approved the request.*

Art.5 The Patrimony

- 1. The association's initial patrimony has the value of 6.500.000 lei, deposited by the founding members at the date of the foundation. This patrimony is exclusively destined to the accomplishment of the purpose and objectives of the association and cannot be transmitted to other associations.*

2. *The social patrimony may be enlarged by fixed and monetary capital obtained through the means stated in the law, and shall be registered in the association's accountant evidence.*

Art.6 Purpose and objectives

1. *The purpose of the association is to elaborate and promote specific youth policies.*

2. *To attain this goal, the association has established the following objectives:*

a) *to clearly define the role and statue of youth in society, the responsibilities the youth have to society and the society has to the youth;*

b) *to periodically identify the needs and desires of young persons in order to assure real and equal chances, free from any racial, religious or sexual discriminations;*

c) *to periodically identify the problems youth confront;*

d) *to organize and/or participate in conferences, seminars, debates and forums, both internal and external, on themes that respect the purpose and objectives established by the present statute;*

e) *to periodically evaluate Romanian youth policies with respect to similar policies implemented on the international level;*

f) *to promote youth programs, structures and services;*

g) *to join other international non-governmental organizations that pursue the goal of promoting youth;*

h) *to develop programs that support young people on the social and professional fields;*

j) *to develop youth tourism;*

k) *to promote the active participation of youth on the level of civil society as well as in any decision that regards them either directly or indirectly.*

l) *to facilitate young people access to information as well as to guarantee a fair and impartial information;*

m) *to better the relation between the youth and the central or local authorities in charge of youth problems;*

n) *to develop a system of cultural, educational and leisure benefits for young people;*

o) *to defend human rights, especially in what the youth is concerned;*

p) *to get young people involved in developing youth policies;*

q) *to forward concrete measures for the socio-professional integration of disabled youth;*

r) *to support the economic development of youth by means of specific programs and legislative propositions;*

s) *to organize specialized academic programs in order to form young managers;*

t) *to stimulate youth involvement in community life;*

u) *to forward legislative propositions in the interest of youth to any governmental organizations that deal with youth issues;*

- v) to harmonize national youth policies with international youth policies;*
- w) to stimulate youth volunteer work;*
- x) to defend and promote student's interests as a specific group;*
- y) to create a Pro Youth National Network with branches in all counties;*
- z) any other objective compatible with the present statute;*

Chapter II

MEMBERS

Art.7 Categories of Members

- 1. The association is formed by the following categories of members:**
 - founding members*
 - subscribing Members*
 - honorary members*
- 2. The founding members of the present association are those mentioned in the constitutive act of the association.**
- 3. Any person may become a member of the association on the basis of a membership request approved by the Council of Directors. Those persons would then become subscribing members and will be bound to respect the provision of the present statute.**
- 4. The association may appoint as honorary members, those persons who in time have provided support for the activity of the association. Their choosing is of the competence of the Council Board.**

Art.8 Exclusion from the Association

- 1. Membership may be withdrawn in one of the following cases:**
 - a member decides to withdraw from the association;*
 - a member is excluded from the association;*
- 2. A member may be excluded from the association, under the provisions of the law, in the following cases:**
 - when the member commits frauds to the detriment of the association or makes use of the association's name or patrimony to serve personal ends;*
 - when the member does not respect the provisions of the statute or of the internal regulations of the association, its internal discipline, or utilizes donations without respect to their original destination.*
- 3. The decision to exclude a member is of the competence of the Council Board.**

Art.9 Members' Rights

- 1. The rights members enjoy are as follows:**
 - the right to be informed on the activity of the association;*
 - the right to participate at all meetings of the General Assembly;*
 - the right to consult data bases, publications, and any other material the association possesses and to benefit from all technical facilities of the association;*

- the right to be mentioned in the documents of the association for the activity undertaken;
 - any other right granted by the present statute or the internal regulations of the association;
2. Also, founding members and members have the right to vote in the General Assembly. Every member has one vote;

Art.10 Members' Obligations

1. The obligations membership implies are as follows:

- the obligation to respect the present statute and any other act issued by the ruling bodies of the association;
- the obligation to act within the association with respect to its purpose and moral profile;
- the obligation to fulfill the tasks assumed;
- the obligation not to prejudice by inadequate conduct, the image of the association;
- the obligation to pay the yearly fees established by the association's ruling bodies;

Chapter III

PATRIMONIAL RESOURCES

Art.11 The Patrimony

1. The initial patrimony may be completed by the following means:

- a) interests and dividends resulting from the investment of available sums under the law;
- b) income obtained through direct economic activities;
- c) donations, sponsorships;
- d) any other form of income, under the provisions of the law;

2. All benefits resulting from the various economic activities of the association are to be employed to the fulfillment of its purpose, and may under no circumstances provide material gain for its members, apart from that resulting from the pay of various rewards for the successful execution of current activities: the pay for transportation, accommodation and expenditure cash, as established by the internal regulation of the association.

3. Donations and other material contributions in money or material, destined to facilitate the fulfillment of the association's purpose may not be withdrawn, and in the case of liquidation, they will follow the path stimulated in the relevant chapter of the statute.

4. Personal debts of members may not be repaid from the association's patrimony. A creditor of a member cannot raise claims on the donations, either in money or material, the member had made to the association.

5. The associations may become the titular of a bank account.

6. *The association's patrimony may not be reduced under the initial value.*
7. *The patrimony shall be used in such a manner so that its use will not affect the fulfillment of the association's purpose or object of activity.*
8. *The association's financial responsibility is reduced to its patrimony and under no circumstances can members be held personally responsible.*

Chapter IV

RULING, ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONTROL ORGANS

Art.12 Ruling, Administrative and Control Organs

1. *The association's organs are as follows:*

- *The General Assembly*
- *The Council Board*
- *The Censor*

Art.13 The General Assembly

1. *The General Assembly is the ruling body made up from all of the members of the association.*
2. *The competence of the General Assembly includes:*
 - a) *establishing the general strategy and objectives of the association;*
 - b) *approving the budget and the balance sheet made by the Council Board;*
 - c) *electing and revoking the members of the board of directors;*
 - d) *electing and revoking the censor or accordingly, the members of the censoring committee;*
 - e) *accepting or denying membership requests;*
 - f) *excluding members that are considered inadequate;*
 - g) *approving the establishing of territorial branches;*
 - h) *modifying the statute on the proposition of the Council Board;*
 - i) *deciding the liquidation of the association;*
 - j) *any other prerogative, according to the law;*
3. *The General Assembly performs in ordinary meetings once a year, or is called upon in extraordinary meetings, by the Council Board or one of the members, as often as it is needed. The decision to call on the General Assembly must be made public no less than three days before the meeting.*
4. *The General Assembly is statutory when 2/3 of its members are present and may not decide without the vote of a 50plus one majority.*
5. *In case the necessary 2/3 quorum is not attained, the meeting shall be called upon again, no sooner than three days after. Then, the General Assembly may decide with the simple majority of those present.*

Art.14 The Council Board

1. *The Council Board is made up of four persons and it is elected by the general Assembly.*

2. *The Council Board is in charge of applying the decisions of the General Assembly and has the following prerogative:*

- a) makes sure that the provisions of the statute are respected;*
- b) writes periodical reports on the status of the association?*
- c) approves the internal organizational plan of the association as well as its personnel policy;*
- d) writes the budget;*
- e) forwards the proposition for modifying the statute;*
- f) signs juridical acts for and in the name of the association*
- g) forwards the proposition to liquidate the association;*
- h) accepts new members and excludes them;*
- i) establishes the membership fee;*
- j) elaborates and modifies the internal regulation of the association;*
- k) any other prerogative established by the decisions of the General Assembly or by the present statute;*

3. *The mandate of the members of the Board is two years long;*

4. *The Council Board appoints one of its members as President of the association, and also appoints other members to take the other executive functions stipulated in the statute or in the internal regulations of the association;*

5. *The Board may include persons that are not members of the association, up to ¼ of its overall composition.*

6. *The Council Board may decide to change the head office.*

7. *The Board holds meetings on a monthly basis, discusses the problems and the activities of the association, as well as the new actions proposed by members.*

8. *The meetings of the Council Board are to be considered valid when a majority of 2/3 of its members is present. Decisions are made with absolute majority, excepting those on issues that according to the present statute require a qualified majority.*

9. *In case no majority is established and the vote is equal, the President's opinion prevails.*

10. *The Council Board may award executive functions to one or more persons, non-members included, in order to carry out the decisions of the General Assembly. These functions are to be established by the internal regulation of the association.*

11. *The Council Board may at any time be dismissed by a decision of the General Assembly, taken with a 2/3 majority.*

Art.15 The President

1. *The Council Board elects from its members, with absolute majority the President of 'Pro Youth'. The President shall also act as President of the Council Board, coordinating its activity.*

2. *The mandate of the President is two years long and may be repeated.*

3. *The President may be suspended by the Council Board with the vote of a 2/3 majority, in the case his actions seriously damage the public image of the association or they are contrary to the present statute.*
4. *The suspension of the President must be sustained or overruled by the decision of the General Assembly in a week's time.*
5. *In case the function lays vacant, the prerogatives of the President are taken over by the Vice-President, until elections are held.*

Art.16 The Vice-President

1. *The Council Board elects from its members, with absolute majority the Vice-President of 'Pro Youth'.*
2. *The mandate of the Vice-President is two years long and may be repeated.*
3. *In case the President is absent, the Vice-President takes over its prerogative.*
4. *The Vice-President may be suspended by the Council Board with the vote of a 2/3 majority, in the case his actions seriously damage the public image of the association or they are contrary to the present statute.*

Art.17 Control

1. *The General Assembly appoints a Censor, who has full powers in controlling the activity of the association, having the following competence:*
 - a) *verifies the way in which the original patrimony is administered;*
 - b) *writes reports and forwards them to the Council Board and to the General Assembly;*
 - c) *May participate to the meetings of the Council Board, but cannot vote;*
2. *The Censor forwards periodical reports on his/her activity to the General Assembly and to the Council Board.*

Chapter V

ENDING OF EXISTENCE AND LIQUIDATION

Art.18 Ending of Existence

1. *The association can cease to exist in the following cases:*
 - a) *when the purpose that was supposed to be reached can no longer be attained;*
 - b) *by judicial ruling, when it is proven that it conducts its activity contrary to decency, public order, the security of the state, or when it becomes bankrupt.*

Art.19 Liquidation

1. *Liquidation can only be decided by the General assembly.*
2. *Liquidation shall unfold according to the dispositions of Art. 61-71 of Government Order no. 26/2000*
3. *All assets that may remain following liquidation will be donated to the University of Bucharest.*

Chapter VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

Art.20 Modification of the Statute

1. The statute can be modified only by a decision of the General Assembly, at the proposal of the Council Board, taken with a 2/3 majority.

Art.21 Final Provisions

1. The provisions of the present statute are completed by all standing legal provisions.

2. Any modification of this present statute may under no circumstances alter the purpose of the association.