



Comunitate pregătită, copil integrat – suport pentru integrarea școlară și socială a copiilor cu tulburări din spectrul autismului

Bucharest, April 2015

Press release

Prepared community – Integrated Child - a project proposing models of support for school and social integration of children with autism spectrum disorder in Romania

On 1st of April 2015, the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation in partnership with the State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre Iceland (SDCC) and the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) in Romania started the project "Prepared community, Integrated Child – Support for School and Social Integration of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)".

The project is implemented in 10 Romanian counties who have an increased number of autism cases (Brăila, Tulcea, Vrancea, Vaslui, Bacău, Piatra Neamț, Suceava, Botoșani, București, Prahova). The project proposes a training program for school integration for 100 children with ASD, in the DGASPC - ASD Centres in these counties.

Through this program, the training for school integration uses a multidisciplinary approach and is based on the collaboration between child protection public authorities, families and schools. 130 professionals (100 teachers and 30 psychologists and pedagogues working in ASD Centres) will be trained in order to develop specific working skills with autistic children and 100 parents will receive information and support in order to build a good relationship with the school.

The SDCC, Iceland, provides the training experience and will also host a study visit for sharing good practices in school integration for children with autism.

The data provided by the Romanian partners (DGASPC) for the period 2012- 2013 show that in the 10 selected counties 388 children and young people with autism do not go to school, even though they have school age.

The Evaluation Report of the quality of services provided by the ASD Centres opened through the project "They must have a chance!", implemented between 2010 – 2013 and co-financed by the European Social Fund, shows that the school integration of children with disabilities in Romania faces many difficulties, although is guaranteed by law. Most of problems are caused by malfunctions of the Romanian educational system; also there are shortcomings in the way the families approach this matter.

The project "Prepared community, Integrated Child", started by RAA Foundation, SDCC and 10 DGASPC aims to build a model of multidisciplinary interventions in 10 Romanian counties in order to increase the access to educational and school integration services for children with autism.



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The project will be implemented during the next 12 months and is financed by EEA grants 2009 – 2014, through ONG Fund in Romania, round 2. The value of the project is 148.794 euro, of which 133.894 euro grant funding and 14.900 euro co-funding.

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