

# **Holt International Children's Services**

## **Child Welfare in Romania Project**

**USAID Co-operative Agreement 186-0016-A-00-8112-00**

**October 1998 - September 2002**

**July –September 2001**

**Project Quarter 12**

### **I. Executive Summary**

These quarter activities continued to focus on further developing and improving community services as part of the project and maximize the impact of the program in the communities we serve.

We continued all "Child Welfare in Romania Project" program components in Constanta and Iasi: Crisis Intervention Services for At-Risk Families and Children (with three components: Pregnancy Counseling, Community Based Services to Families At-Risk and Services to Abandoned Children), Domestic Adoption Services, Foster Care Services and Services to HIV+ Children and Their Families.

Social assistants continued to assist abandoned children in maternities, pediatric hospitals, dystrophic units and institutions, as well as serving children and families at risk. They continued to provide economic assistance to families through donations of material goods and information on family planning methods and referral to local family planning clinics.

Holt participated at the meeting regarding the MOU-s under the leadership of Mrs. Lucfa Correll, the Senior Child Welfare Advisor, during this quarter.

Holt representatives participated at the Gender Assessment Meeting under the leadership of USAID Mission.

ProChild Federation, where Holt is a founder member, has become a legal Federation by law starting with this quarter.

Holt representatives participated at All Sectors Meeting held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001, under USAID Mission.

Holt won two Phare Fund Projects (Shelter for Mother and Child in Mures County and Long Term Foster Care for older sibling groups in Constanta County). We submitted these proposals on March and they will start next quarter. We are partners on both of them with the local authorities who actually are the main applicant.

Holt has been invited at the National Conference "Change the World with Children" organized by UNICEF, USAID, National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption, Canadian International Development Agency on September 19-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001.

Holt met several times with representatives of the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption in order to build and maintain a good relation of collaboration with the new CO of the National Authority. The efforts to improve the collaboration with the local DPCs have been done during this quarter, as well.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001, the workshop in Standards of Social Services and Accreditation System was organized in Bucharest. The workshop was organized by FONPC, National Authority and EU Delegation in Romania. One Holt representative attended this workshop.

### **Training**

We ended the National Training on Domestic Adoption during this quarter. We continued the effort to do as much as we could on Domestic Adoption Program. Holt prepared and presented along with other Conference Materials a Domestic Adoption report at the National Conference "Change the World with Children" under the leadership of UNICEF, USAID, National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption.

During this quarter, Holt offered training for a total of **17 new foster families** as part of their training program to become maternal assistants. Holt continued to sustain the local DPC Iasi in order to develop a foster care network for new born babies as an alternative solution to the institutionalization. Also, Holt offered training for **11 new adoptive families**. The trainings are done in partnership with local DPC. The most receptive on this activity is local DPC in Iasi. The training sessions are presented both for adoptive families recruited by Holt and local DPC Iasi.

## **II. Data**

All project components developed by Holt are implemented in direct collaboration with the local DPCs in the counties of Constanta and Iasi.

### **IASI**

#### **1. Crisis Intervention Services for At-risk Families and Children**

There are six (6) social assistants in the Crisis Intervention Program in Iasi County:

One social assistant is located in the maternity hospital of Iasi and works with pregnant women at risk, women after delivery, children at risk of being abandoned and abandoned children in the maternity ward.

Two social assistants are working in two local health dispensaries in Iasi city and provide services to pregnant women, families and children at risk from those communities.

One social assistant has worked in the pediatric wards of Iasi hospitals and with children abandoned in maternities. She used to be located in the Dystrophic Unit. She is on maternity leave.

Two social assistants are located in Placement Centers doing child evaluation for the long term institutionalized children, and they develop permanency plans for these children.

**This quarter:**

**A number of 143 new children (new cases for this quarter) received services under the Crisis Intervention Program developed by Holt in Iasi, out of which 27 were abandoned children (in institutions and medical facilities) and 116 were at risk of abandonment.**

**A total number of 227 children (all cases served) received services under the Crisis Intervention program during this quarter.**

**A number of 74 at-risk children received services through the Crisis Intervention program and remained with their families and 21 abandoned children returned to their birth families as a result of services received.**

#### **A. Pregnancy Counseling Component**

**64 new women (new cases for this quarter) in crisis were served through the pregnancy counseling component (the quarterly objectives have been reached – 106,66%). Out of this number 3 were pregnant and 61 had already delivered.**

**A total number of 183 (all cases served) received services through this program during this quarter.**

**52 new women received information on and referral to family planning clinics.**

**A number of 66 new children received services as part of the Pregnancy Counseling component (children of women in the Pregnancy Counseling Program).**

#### **B. Community Based Services to Families at Risk Component**

**50 new children received services as part of the community based services to families at-risk program during this quarter in Iasi.**

**27 new families (new cases) were registered and received services under this program component.**

**A total of 98 families at risk (all cases served) received services through this program during this quarter.**

#### **C. Services to Abandoned Children Component**

**27 new abandoned children received services through this program component.**

#### **2. Domestic Adoption Services**

We have one social assistant working for this program in Iasi. She is located in Holt Office and she is working in good collaboration with the colleagues from the local DPC. The Holt social assistant continued to sustain her colleague from local DPC in order to implement Holt's standards on domestic adoption in the local DPC practice. They have regular meetings and they set up the training for prospective or approved adoptive families.

During this quarter, as a result of the efforts that have been made to increase public awareness through several mass media articles, broadcastings on radio and TV

focusing on domestic adoption, the number of families recruited and children placed in the adoptive families increased.

The quarterly objective for this program for Iasi was 6 new placements in domestic adoption. **We reached 116,66 % from objective during this quarter.**

**This quarter, 7 new children were placed in domestic adoption in Iasi.  
20 children received follow up services (post placement services) during this quarter.**

**7 new adoptive families were recruited.**

**9 new adoptive families received training during this quarter.**

**4 adoptive families were approved by local DPC during this quarter.**

**A total of 28 adoptive families received services during the quarter.**

44 children have been placed on domestic adoption during the Project, on Iasi County, which means that we are a little bit behind the objectives set for this County. We try to recover this delay through various ways: public awareness, media campaign and to match the abandoned children from Iasi County with adoptive families from the other Holt sites (Bucharest, Constanta and Mures). I would like to point out that all the solutions are really successfully.

Ongoing efforts have been done to develop good communication between our four sites regarding Domestic Adoption.

Holt is looking to find creative ways to provide dynamism to the Domestic Adoption Program and find as many families as possible for the abandoned children.

### **3. Foster Care Services**

We have one social assistant working in foster care program in Iasi.

The quarterly objective for this program in Iasi was to have 5 new placements in foster care, for a total of 15 children placed in our Iasi foster care network. **We reached the quarterly objectives (120 %).**

**This quarter, 6 new children were placed in foster care in Iasi.**

**At the end of the quarter a total of 21 children were in care in Iasi site.**

**There were no new foster care families recruited during this quarter.**

**There were 16 foster families (from local DPC and Holt network) who received training.**

**3 new families were certified by the county during this quarter.**

57 children have been placed on foster care families in Iasi County during the Project,. We are very close to reach the objectives set for Iasi County under the USAID Project (60).

### **4.Services to HIV+ Children and their families**

Holt has one social assistant providing services to HIV/AIDS children and their families in Iasi site. She is located in the Hospital for Infectious Diseases of Iasi County, where Holt opened a social assistance office.

Our social assistant works in collaboration with medical staff working in the county hospital for infectious diseases, with the local authorities and with Parenting Association, in order to support these children and their families.

Holt continued to develop a reintegration program with temporary financial support for the family. There are 15 children infected with HIV/AIDS who received, besides counseling, an economical support consisting in food, clothes, footwear, vitamins, medication, school supplies, etc. All these children are in their birth families. These families received a lot of support, counseling and other social services.

The quarterly objective set for Iasi's Program is to serve 9 new cases (children with HIV/AIDS).

**This quarter, 10 new cases of children were opened.  
A total number of 55 children with HIV/AIDS (all cases served) received services during this quarter.**

**The quarter ended with 45 active cases.  
There are 15 children with HIV/AIDS in the reintegration program with temporary financial support of the family.**

## **CONSTANTA**

### **1. Crisis Intervention Services At-Risk Families and Children**

We have four social assistants working for this Program: 3 of them are located in Constanta city and cover the City of Constanta and the community around the city and one social assistant is placed in Medgidia and covers Medgidia area.

**This quarter:  
A number of 107 new children (new cases for this quarter) received services under the Crisis Intervention Program implemented by Holt in Constanta, out of which 5 were abandoned children (in institutions and medical facilities) and 102 were identified as at-risk for abandonment.**

**A total number of 308 children (all cases served) received services under this Program during this quarter.**

**A number of 96 at-risk children received services through the Crisis Intervention Program and remained with their families, while 8 abandoned children returned to their birth families as a result of services received.**

#### **A. Pregnancy Counseling Component**

**65 new women (new cases for this quarter) in crisis were served through the pregnancy counseling component (the quarterly objectives have been reached – 108,33 %). Out of this number 4 were pregnant and 61 had already delivered.**

**A total number of 179 (all cases served) received services through this program during this quarter.**

**65 new women received information on and referral to family planning clinics.**

A number of 70 new children received services as part of the Pregnancy Counseling component (children of women in the Pregnancy Counseling Program).

**B. Community Based Services to Families at Risk Component**

32 children (new cases) received services as part of the community based services to families at-risk program during this quarter in Constanta.

30 new families (new cases) were registered and received services under this program component.

A total of 139 families at risk (all cases served) received services through this program during this quarter.

**C. Services to Abandoned Children Component**

5 new abandoned children received services through this program component.

**2.Domestic Adoption Services**

We have one social assistant working for this program in Constanta. She is located in Holt Office and she works in strong and close collaboration with the colleagues from the local DPC.

The quarterly objective set for Constanta's Program is to have 6 new placements in domestic adoption. **We didn't reach this objective ( 50 % ) during this quarter.**

**This quarter, 3 new children were placed in domestic adoption in Constanta.**

**20 children received follow up services (post placement services) during this quarter.**

**3 new adoptive families were recruited.**

**2 new adoptive families received training during this quarter.**

**A total of 30 adoptive families received services during the quarter.**

**3.Foster care Services**

We have two social assistants working in foster care program in Constanta. One of them is located in Constanta City, working in Holt office and the other is placed in Medgidia, working in the Holt Community Resource Center.

We continue to focus on short-term foster care for de-institutionalizing children from institution and as preventive services.

Holt continues to develop in Constanta long-term foster care for HIV+ children. These children were abandoned in the institutions and medical units. They have been placed in well trained and supervised foster families specialized to support and care for long term institutionalized children. They attend the classes of Community school and they are well reintegrated into the local community.

The quarterly objective for this program for Constanta was to have 10 new placements in foster care, for a total of 30 children placed in our Constanta foster care network. **We did not reach the quarterly objective (40 %).**

**This quarter, 4 new children were placed in foster care in Constanta.**

**At the end of the quarter a total of 29 children were in care in Constanta site.**

**1 new family was recruited to become foster family during this quarter.**

**1 foster family received training.**

**There was no new family certified by the county during this quarter.**

#### **4.Services to HIV+ Children and their families**

Holt has three social assistants providing services to HIV/AIDS children and their families in Constanta site. Two social assistants are located in Constanta City and they cover a large area in the county around the city. The third social assistant is located in Medgidia and works in the local Holt Community Resource Center.

Holt continued to develop a reintegration program with temporary financial support of the family. In Constanta, there are 25 children infected with HIV/AIDS who received, besides counseling, economical support consisting in food, clothes, footwear, vitamins, medication, school supplies, etc. All of these children are in their birth families. These families received a lot of support, counseling and other social services.

The quarterly objective set up for this program in Constanta is to serve 12 new cases (children with HIV/AIDS).

**This quarter, 7 new cases of children were opened in Constanta site.**

**A total number of 146 children with HIV/AIDS (all cases served) received services during this quarter.**

**The quarter ended with 139 active cases.**

**There are 25 children with HIV/AIDS in the reintegration program with temporary financial support of the family.**

**There are a total of 10 children with HIV/AIDS placed in long term foster care.**

#### **D. Successes and Barriers in each County**

##### **Successes – Iasi**

- Increase the number of domestic adoption placements
- Work groups between Holt and local DPC social assistants continue in order to transfer our methodology and procedures to the local DPC staff
- Good collaboration with Local DPC Iasi
- Good partnership with the local networking of NGO-s in order to support our clients
- Project objectives set for this quarter reached for almost all program components.

##### **Successes – Constanta**

- Medgidia Center became a practical center for training on TOT –Welcome Baby, Pregnancy Counseling and How To Become Better Parents programs; there were invited representatives from three counties to participate at this training. The counties were Vaslui, Suceava and Botosani.

- Partnership between Holt and the local DPC, in order to get funding for children's de-institutionalization and close the institutions which are left in Constanta County.

#### **Barriers –Constanta and Iasi**

- New changes at the Central level created confusion at the local level
- There are no minimal standards in force, equally applying to domestic adoption, no matter if they are NGO-s or local authorities. The adoptive families told us about hard time and discourage attitude they had through adoption process.
- A huge challenge continues to be the very poor economical status of the majority of our clients. There is a significant deterioration in the economical status of the population in general as well as an increase in unemployment every month.
- The local DPC-s received or will receive designated money to develop or increase the foster care network locally. The concern is that there will be children placed without any permanency planning done before. This definitely is not in the best interest of child and, furthermore, puts the child in dangerous situations.
- Foster care program as it was designed by Holt to be a temporary solution for children who have family reintegration and adoption as a permanency planning will be affected by the Moratorium. This will block the foster care network, objectives set will be hard to be reached and this will affect the reintegration and domestic adoption services.

#### **E. Information regarding “System Change” Component**

Mrs.Predescu, the Secretary of State from the National Authority for child Protection and Adoption, was on maternity leave and her position was filled by somebody else. Mrs. Gabriela Coman was appointed as a new Secretary of State. Mrs.Coman used to work in Child Welfare System for many years and she is considered to be a knowledgeable person in Child Protection. Holt continued to be a permanent presence in front of the new head of the National Authority for the Protection of Children and Adoption in order to introduce our programs and results.

Holt has started the pre-testing process of the three guide books, as objectives under the USAID project last quarter, but we could not end this pre-testing because of the summer vacation. These guides are as follow:

- a. Guide for young mothers
- b. Guide for social assistants providing pregnancy counseling services
- c. Guide for the professionals working with HIV/AIDS affected children and their families.

We will finalize the pre-testing of these guide books during the last quarter of this year.

The National Conference on Domestic Adoption was cancelled based on the changes expected for the adoption law. There is feed back from National Training on Domestic Adoption coming from other counties that Holt runs social services. We received request to support Domestic Adoption Services from neighboring counties.

Sibiu County contacted our Mures site in order to ask for help. This is a good sign for Domestic Adoption.

Holt was invited to participate in the meetings of the Task Force on Standards of Social Services and Accreditation System, organized by FONPC/ National Authority and EU Delegation in Romania.

Holt developed and implemented a Training of Trainers Program of " Strengthening Romanian Families through Developing Parenting Skills" in partnership with UNICEF and the local Mayor of Medgidia. The TOT will be provided in 10 counties recommended by UNICEF. The training will be provided to staff working in the local DPCs and to members of NGO-s active in these counties. The theoretical training was held last quarter. During this quarter, a field training at Medgidia Center was held for the same counties. The TOT will continue next quarter.

Federation of ProChild Romania is a newly formed federation of NGO-s from Romania. ProChild Romania became a legal Federation by law starting this quarter. Holt is one of the founder members.

#### **F. Narrative stories**

Please, see the case stories attached. The case stories highlighted our work.

#### **G. Report from the County Council Secretary and the National Authority of Child Protection and Adoption regarding the progress of the project**

We continued the efforts to increase public awareness through several media articles, shows on radio and TV focused on domestic adoption. Local DPC-s was side by side with us.

Representatives of public and private sectors from Vaslui, Suceava and Botosani spent three days at Medgidia and learned about our joint Project developed in Constanta County.

National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption knows well our project and there is a partnership between Holt and the National Authority for other two projects. During the time spent there, they learned about progress done under the USAID Project.

#### **H. Achieved goals this quarter and anticipated outputs for the next quarter**

Please, see the Chapter II Data.

#### **I. Financial Report**

Please, see the financial report.

#### **J. Attachments**

- Case story with Photo
- Domestic Adoption Brochures

#### **Added Chapter to the HOLT Quarterly Report:**

#### **K. Other services to children (all Holt Romania Programs)**

- This quarter a total of **376 new children** were served by Holt in all four sites: Constanta, Iasi, Bucharest and Mures

- Holt ended this quarter with a total of **1071 active cases** of children and 299 active cases of women in crisis, in all four sites.
- **Foster care Services** – 13 new children were placed in foster care this quarter
  - 106 children are placed and cared for in Holt foster care families
  - 1 new foster family was recruited
  - 60 foster families are recognized as official maternal assistants by the local Commission
- **Domestic Adoption** – 12 children were placed in Romanian adoptive families
  - 14 new families were recruited
  - 16 families officially approved this quarter as adoptive families
  - 41 children received follow up services
- **Crisis Intervention Services** – 152 new women in crisis were served
  - 158 new women received family planning information
  - 4 new mothers were placed in Holt shelter for mother and child, during this quarter
  - 33 children were reintegrated into their birth family during this quarter
  - 260 children remained with their families based on services received
- **Services to HIV+ Children and their families**
  - 32 new HIV+ children and their families were served
  - 12 children are placed into long term foster care
  - 63 HIV+ children received help through the reintegration program with financial support of the family
  - we ended this quarter with 231 HIV+ children active cases
  - Holt continues to support the Parenting Association.
- Holt continues to implement **The Community Resource Center**. This Program is a partnership between UNICEF, IOMC (Institute for Mother and Child Care, Bucharest sector 2) and Holt. The families receive professional information, support and assistance in order to obtain their legal rights, counseling, other services like work groups with subjects chosen by the clients, special events. There are two workgroups/months organized for families registered at the Community Resource Center.
- **Long term Foster care for older children/sibling groups in Mures County**. We ended the quarter with 17 children placed in long term foster care: three groups with three siblings each and four groups of two siblings. The seventh placement was done during this quarter. The children had a nice summer vacation and a relaxing time. The children have started a new school year on September. Holt social assistants moved forward with the older children vocational orientation.

- Holt will continue the new joint project “Strengthening Romanian Families by Developing Parenting Skills” with UNICEF and local Mayor’s office from Medgidia.

- **Community Day Center –Rozmarinul/ Tg.Mures, Mures County**

This project is a partnership between the local DPC Mures, Holt, the local Mayor’s Office and the local Ministry of Education. The implementation of this project has started last quarter. The project continued during this quarter as well. There are social services provided through Community Based Services to Families at-risk. The children are at high risk to be abandoned, neglected or to drop out of school.

- **The Parents Resource Center/ Bucharest, sector 1**

Three parenting classes ended this quarter. A number of 44 parents have been trained and more than 55 children had educational and play activities with the volunteers while their parents attended the class.

Three parenting classes were set up starting in the beginning of September. They will have their children spend a few hours/week at the Parents Resource Center.

**HOLT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
 QUARTELY REPORT  
 JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2001**

**USAID chart**

**USAID IR indicators**

		<b>Ciuj</b>	<b>Iasi</b>	<b>Constanta</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of children protected in State institutions			<i>Data from NAPCR - see WV report</i>		
Number of participans trained	Internal Staff*		0	0	0
	Government staff		<i>See WV report</i>		
	NGO-s		<i>See WV report</i>		
Number of children served in community based services	USAID activity		511	512	1023
	County activity		<i>Data from NAPCR - see WV report</i>		
Number of families receiving services			340	473	813
Number of programs available	USAID activities		6	6	6

Number of new children admitted in institutions in Iasi, Cluj and Constanta	This quarter	[REDACTED]	<i>Data from NAPCR - see WV report</i>		
	Cumulative, since USAID activity				
Number of children placed for adoption in Romanian adoptive families	By USAID activity this Quarter	[REDACTED]	7	3	10
Number of rural communities/urban districts impacted by community development programs		[REDACTED]			

\*Define type of professionals trained

Number of professional meetings to develop procedures; number of new procedures agreed by all the professionals

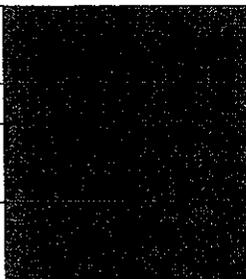
### USAID funded activities

#### Case Activity by Services (\*)

	Services		Cluj	Iasi		Constanta		Totals	
<b>Case management and Family Support</b>	Family Reunification: Number of children reunified with their families			<b>21</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>143</b>
	Foster care:	Number of foster parents recruited,		0	146	1	108	1	254
		Number of foster parents trained		16	110	1	82	17	192
		Number of foster parents certified by the county		3	23	0	28	3	51
		Number of children placed in foster care		6	57	4	120	10	177
	Domestic adoption	Number of families recruited		7	53	3	79	10	132
		Number of families trained		9	58	2	65	11	123
		Number approved by county		4	33	2	60	6	93
		Number of families receiving children		7	44	3	60	10	104
		Number of children receiving post placement services		20	39	20	60	40	99

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	<b>Services</b>		<b>Cluj</b>	<b>Iasi</b>		<b>Constanta</b>		<b>Totals</b>	
	Home Based Counseling								
	Pregnancy Counseling (Holt's Program)	Number of women receiving counseling		64	459	65	792	129	1251
		Number of women receiving family planning info and referrals		52	386	65	688	117	1074
<b>Services for Women in Transition (World Vision)</b>	Number of cases (mother and child) served in Emergency Shelter (not prevent)								
	Day Care Services (Number children in day care)								
<b>Services for Youth in Transition</b>	Number of children served in Life Skills Programs								
<b>HIV program</b>	Number of HIV/AIDS children served (new cases)			10	102	7	253	17	355
	Total number of children served during the quarter			55		146		201	
	Family reintegration with economic support			15	75	25	133	40	208
	Therapeutic Foster Care (Total number at the end of the quarter)			0	0	10	11	10	11
<b>Early Intervention and Prevention services</b>	Number of cases receiving services								

<b>Crisis intervention services</b>	Children abandoned in institutions (new cases)		27	243	5	78	32	321	
	Number of families at risk served		27	275	30	379	57	654	
<b>Emergency Funds</b>	Number of children benefiting		<i>See WV report</i>						
	Number of families								

**HOLT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
IASI OFFICE**

Social Assistant: **Diana TABUSCA**

**THE STORY OF AN 'OFFSPRING'**

The sunshine cuddles the white flower plain. The summer day comes to its end after the long hours when the sun played above. The evening has come, and the last drop of light has set. Midnight brings along the silence.

Silence is all over except in the middle of the white flower plain. Cheerful and white flowers say with a mild murmur that one of them, a small and tiny flower, has given birth to a small, small, very small ... 'flower bud'.

Silence doesn't find its place in the white hospital section either. Ladies dressed in white gowns say, with a whispered murmur, that a young and delicate companion of them has given birth to a small, small, tiny ... 'offspring'. The young mother whispered, in the silence now present:

*'Emanuel, my dear baby, may the luck be with you always in your life. And even if I won't be near you, I want you to be happy? And... forgive me!'*

*'Why does the mother say these senseless words? Won't she be with me? Where would she go? And if she says she loves me, why go? And she asks me to forgive her... why?'*

*'Because... my little one, life hasn't been generous with me. It has given me too little luck and too little happiness even since the first steps I took in the world of ... grown ups. And I haven't enjoyed love either. It was all an accident. An accident from which **you** were born, my dear baby... I hope the sun will come up for me also and I have the courage to start life all over again... maybe with a little more luck this time. And **you**... my darling, will be the baby of **another** mother... a mother who will provide you with only the best and lost of love and care.'*

*'...Another mother? ...Another mother!!! Do I deserve to suffer before even enjoying the light of life? Do I have to part with my mother?...'*

All of a sudden hot tears started rolling down on the beautiful and tiny face of the baby. The first tears... of sorrow... of the soul.

**...The 'flower bud' has remained with his birth mother, but the human 'offspring'... HAS NOT.**

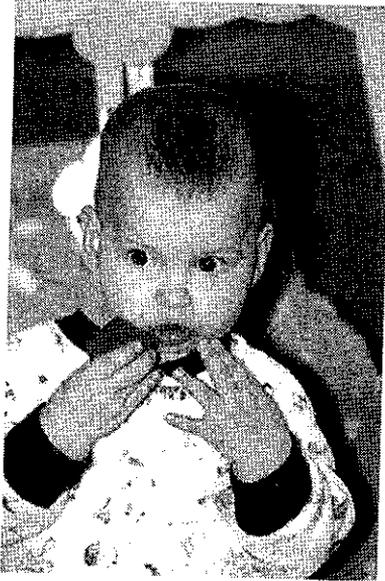
In order to have Emanuel, the 'offspring' in the story, born safely, his mother was admitted into the Maternal Center ever since she was pregnant. The social assistant of Holt Organization took the necessary steps in order to admit the mother and then her baby in the Maternal Center, at the same time with counseling and encouraging the mother to keep her baby. Emanuel's mother, who was a student in the senior year of high school, wanted to finish her education and decided to go on with her life and also know her baby is safe in the future. This is the reason why she has given her consent for Emanuel to be placed with an ...adoptive family.





**Holt Romania**

**National Authority for  
Child Protection and Adoption**



# ***NATIONAL ADOPTION - A SOLUTION***

**SEPTEMBER 2001**

***BEST AVAILABLE COPY***

*Motto: „ Every child deserves a family of his own”*

**The “National Adoption – A Solution” Project represents a partnership project between the UNICEF Representative Office in Romania, the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption, and Holt Romania.**

The project has provided training and consultancy in the field of in-country adoption – at a national level, in order for the professionals of the local Directorates for Child Protection and local Commissions for Child Protection to acquire the improved theoretical knowledge and practical experience regarding adoption as a protective and welfare program for children and an alternative solution to institutionalization of abandoned children.

The main goal of this project was to encourage in-country adoption in Romania by strengthening the the local capacity and improving the adoption services. This project is meant to be self-sustainable and compatible with the general structural reform process of the child welfare system in Romania, and it is unique in its manner of unfolding and the theme it addresses.

The most important objectives of the ‘National Adoption – A Solution’ Project include, among others:

- improve the quality of adoption services provided by the professionals of local authorities

- discuss the concept of professional standards and obtain the contribution of participants in drawing up the professional standards for adoption
- diversify the adoption services provided by professionals
- provide support for creating the regional and national networks for in-country adoption in order to include the groups of partner countries.

The project took place between March 2000 – June 2001. There were regional meetings with the participation of the representatives of Directorates for Child Protection and of Commissions for Child Protection from 4 neighboring counties, as well as representatives of the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption, and the NGO-s. **149 professionals, government experts and counselors, 40 adoptive families, 41 maternal assistants took part in the project.**

The approached subjects addressed the whole complexity and variety of the adoption process.

As result of the corroborated efforts of public authorities and Romanian and international NGO-s, the Romanian society has come to acknowledge the existence of problems which institutionalization involves in all areas – macro-social, micro-social and individual, as well as the need to solve them by addressing their fundamental causes as soon as possible. This means a change of the way in which one understands to provide the care and shift towards strengthening the efforts

for helping children within their birth families when they or their families have difficulties, or to identify a virtual adoptive family.

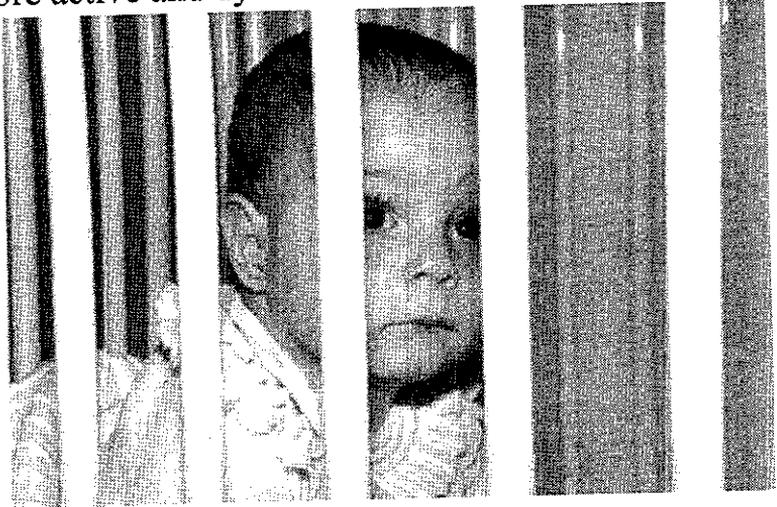
Professionals in the field of Child Protection, both governmental and non-governmental, at local and central level, discussed the present issues of in-country adoption. During these meetings, the strengths and weaknesses of in-country adoption services were identified, and, at the same time, recommendations or suggestions were made in order to encourage and promote in-country adoption in the future.

In order to identify practical solutions to support **in-country** adoption in the future, we thought that a **more general analyze regarding its place** at present would be a good starting point. This general evaluation of the in-country adoption in all counties of the country was achieved through questionnaires sent to local Directorates for Child Protection at the beginning of this project. The information resulted from the interpretation of these questionnaires for preliminary study are the following:

- In-country adoption is an alternative solution to institutionalization being used and applied throughout the whole country, being mainly considered to be a social service for the abandoned child.
- Adoption is considered by the majority of local authorities to be the 3-rd alternative to institutionalization, while entrustment / placement with families or relatives up to

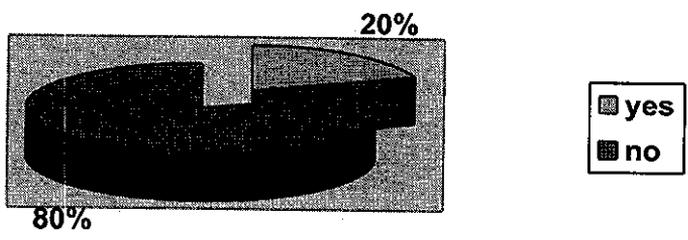
IV-kin or placement / entrustment with maternal assistants are stated before it.

- There are applications for in-country adoption in all counties in spite of the fact professionals have reported an unsatisfactory level of them.
- The main difficulty the counties state regarding the identification of children eligible for adoption is the lack of legal status for the children. The hardships regarding the law enforcement and cooperation with the organisms involved in clearing the legal status of abandoned children hinders the in-country adoption process.
- The level of applications and interest for in-country adoption is rather low and the majority of counties (83%) report that the number of eligible children is constantly larger than the one of adoptive families. The large number of applications appears in the counties which promote a more active and dynamic recruitment.



- In-country adoption of older children is extremely low in all counties (older child means a child whose age ranges from 1 to 10 years old).
- The support the NGO-s provide for National Adoption Program is rather low. Only 6 counties have stated there exist NGO-s which actively take part throughout the whole adoption process. The other counties state that the NGO-s provide support only for clarifying the legal situation of abandoned children and in court hearings.

**Counties with NGO-s specialized for in-country adoption**



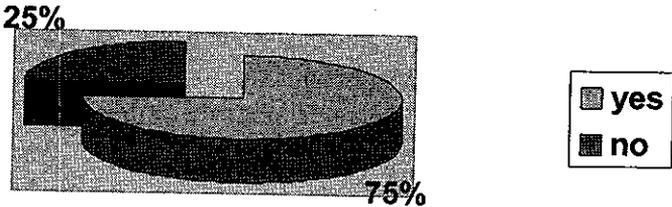
In-country adoption between counties is quite rare since it's considered difficult due to slow communication and lack of direct connection between the professionals in 2 different counties.

During the 10 meetings which took place, the representatives of local and central authorities, NGO-s and adoptive parents discussed about the main objective, namely the observance of all children's rights in accordance with UN Convention on Child Rights Observance. This Convention is a good foundation to start from in drawing up and observing certain viable social policies. **Principles of UN Convention on children's rights must not be only understood and interiorized, but also treated and respected as being vital.** Their simple cognition doesn't help us in meeting our goals.

Starting from this consensus and the goal of the whole project, we have identified some of the needs and actions which help promote the in-country adoption. A special accent has been put on a **human resources involved in the services provided through in-country adoption and throughout the whole in-country adoption process.** We have found out that, first of all, we need to invest in people, by improving their professional level and also the quality of relationships between them. This means that the professional who work in the field need special training periodically and whenever there appears a modification of laws or methodology. The law and methodology of adoption process cannot be taken separate from the package of laws and methodologies meant for enforcing all the juridical documents which concern or affect a child's existence. When we speak about professionals we refer to all professionals who are involved in the adoption process:

persons working in local Directorates and Commissions for Child Protection or in NGO-s, representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Civil Status Service within the Local Councils, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Specialists who feel the need for clarification of laws



The general conclusion of 'National Adoption – A Solution' Project was that a **joint debate of representatives from central and local, governmental and non-governmental authorities, regarding the whole adoption process, is absolutely necessary and useful. This creates a global and complete picture of the Child Protection through adoption field from the legislative – methodology point of view and that of the way in which it reflects at local level and in practice.**

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One idea which was often discussed during these meetings was to create a **Child Court of Law** which will include persons specialized in making decisions regarding the observance of children's rights. Regarding this, the participants considered many delays and even infringements of confidentiality would be avoided. The Court should be specialized for hearing all the cases regarding a child's situation, with the involvement of professionals from all organisms involved.

The discussion regarding the methodology of adoption services has represented a step forward in identifying and drawing up a set of minimal requirements regarding the services provided to the child and adoptive family. **The specialty counseling and support the children and adoptive families need throughout the whole duration of the adoption process makes the adoption be considered positive and promote this service in the future.**

The relationships created between the professionals working in the same program in neighboring counties have increased the **chance to promote inter-country** adoption and, as result, the chance of the abandoned child to have a permanent family through in-country adoption. Discussing and knowing the individual characteristics regarding the organizing and carrying out of adoption program have led to a more exact understanding of local needs and the identification of alternatives and solutions for solving certain difficulties.

One stressed the need of meetings regarding in-country adoption in which, besides the professionals from Child Protection, also take part the professionals from Ministry of Health and Family, Ministry of Labor and Solidarity, Ministry of Justice. An open professional relationship, knowledge about the adoption process and all its stages, as well as an understanding of the emotional state the children and family go through during the adoption, would create a better understanding and empathy for them from the persons responsible with carrying out the process. **An equal knowledge, from all those involved in the adoption process, until the finalization of post-adoption period, of the problems the child and family have during the adoption process, would improve both the laws and the ethical attitude towards adoption.**

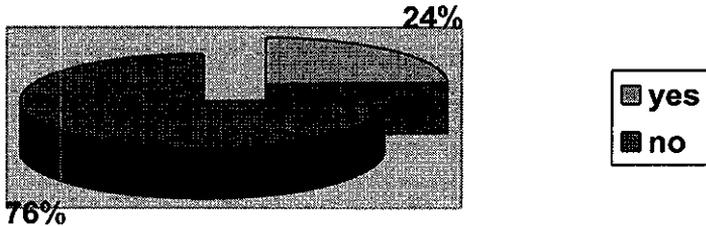
Another aspect with **a major role in promoting the in-country adoption is the attitude and mentality** regarding the adoptive child and adoptive family. We need a general effort to increase the awareness level regarding the problems of abandoned child in order to obtain a change of attitude and mentality of the community. The community which includes the professionals and the adoptive or non-adoptive parents, neighbors, teachers, doctors, etc., needs more media exposure and information regarding the adoptive child. **The professionals need to think with more empathy and more dynamic compared to the need and profile of the child and family, and less determinist.** The professionals who work

directly with the cases know that the adoption process isn't always easy and calm. We need to learn all the time, analyse and change the approach according to the specific situation. This is the only way we can improve their services and quality – learning from each other and from our beneficiaries.

The abandoned children, due to the specific circumstances in which they are, need attention and love and, first of all, a permanent family through in-country adoption. The community has to display a positive and open attitude in treating these children the same way they treat others.

Children born in families have all their life history available for them from the very beginning. Their parents are the ones who retain and stress the important moments in a 'Life Book', and this becomes an important thing in the life of the future adult. Unfortunately, for many children adopted from institutions or from maternal assistants, months and years of their life are black holes without any information about their past, and they rely on us, professionals, to preserve their memories and important moments intact in their life until they will have a permanent family. The 'Life Book' represents the history of the child and it will be continued by the adoptive family in order to represent a support for explaining the birth and adoption to him/her.

## Counties using the 'Life Book' as a specific instrument



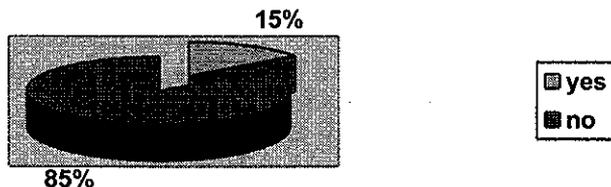
One last, but not least important, aspect in promoting the in-country adoption are the adoption laws and methodology. The laws which settle adoption have to be considered in comparison with the other active laws in child protection, and also with the laws which settle the status of adoptive parents. A family who adopts a child older than 1 year old may not benefit from maternity leave although the child has just been ,born' in that family from the ,birth' point of view. Furthermore, the children and the adoptive family greatly need tranquility, time and adjustment during those starting moments.

Meetings with the adoptive families took place during the whole time of the project. As a result of the dialogue with them, trying to identify what we could improve or even change in the in-country adoption for the child's and his

family's benefit, it was often seen that the adoptive families needed to work with the same social assistant throughout the whole adoption process, including the post-adoption period also, mentioning the relationship and professional trust, which is open and built in time and which supports the adoptive family during the adoption process, thus providing security, tranquility and comfort to the adoptive child. On the other hand, the professional, who knows the child and his specific needs, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the adoptive family, is able to provide professional counseling in order to help the child and the family overcome the more difficult situations.

The experience of public and private authorities who have a Specialized Program for in-country adoption have stressed that the satisfaction degree of the child-family adoption nucleus is high and it influences the promotion of in-country adoption through the quality of services provided.

**Counties with specialized program for in-country adoption within DJPDC-s**



**A continuous change towards a positive mentality of the community regarding the adoption** results from the dialogue with the adoptive parents and their open participation in these meetings. The parents are open and ready to promote adoption as result of the joy of having a child of their own and the positive experience they have had.

This Project – ‘National Adoption – A Solution’, has created the conditions in order to:

- obtain opinions through discussions with a large number of professionals both in the governmental sector and the non-governmental one, as well as with the beneficiaries of services, representing an evaluation of the in-country adoption status in Romania;
- meet directly those who actually work in the program of in-country adoption, exchange ideas, experience, discuss openly about real cases;
- identify and share effective methods for improving the quality of services provided through the in-country adoption;
- have direct contact and open discussions of professionals with the adoptive families who express their own experience as beneficiaries of the adoption process, opinions and suggestions meant to improve the services provided by professionals.

Among the factors which can positively influence the adoption program, namely to promote the in-country adoption and increase the quality of social services, we can

mention the open communication between public, central and private authorities regarding the in-country adoption, in order to identify a proper family for a child and implement more quickly and effectively the changes appeared in this field; **active recruitment**, another important factor which **helps both to change the mentality of community and publicize the adoption services, and also identify virtual adoptive families**. Unfortunately, the main recruitment method does not involve an active, dynamic process and reduces to the interest of the virtual adoptive families. There are counties where an active recruitment takes place through the media, folders, brochures, interviews with adoptive parents and professionals, conferences, flyers, etc., and this obviously reflects in the large number of adoptions processed. The publicizing campaigns of in-country adoption program also reach the following objective: render the community aware regarding the responsibilities towards the child and the family in general, and adoption in particular.

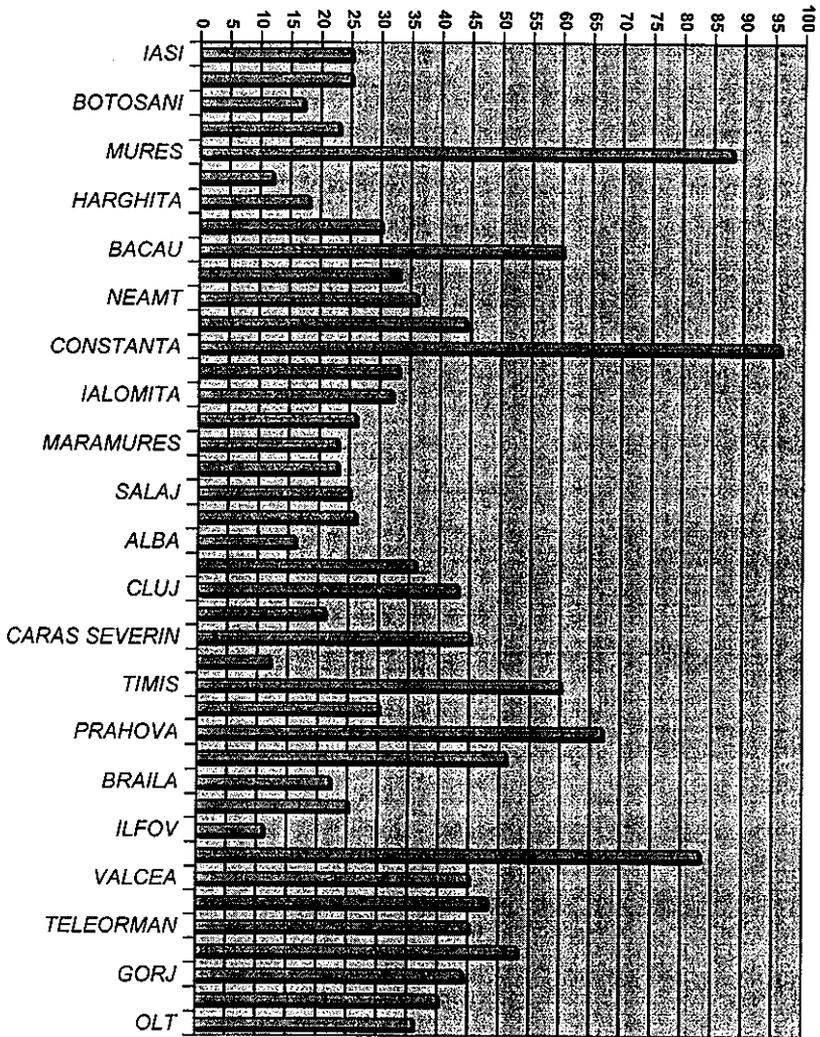
\* \* \*

In-country adoption is a special thing which could happen to any child who hasn't had the chance to remain within or return into his birth family. **It is a big responsibility to identify a proper virtual adoptive family for an abandoned child, a family who would commit themselves to protect the rights of that child. It is a duty to make the**

**adoption of that child happen, professionally and with devotion. It is a reward for us as professionals who do everything within our power to make this happen to every child who needs a family of his own, namely to watch a child grow, develop and thrive in an adoptive family who feels him and within whom he lives as a birth child.**

One could say that, through the proper human resources, integrity, transparency and devotion regarding the management of resources, and the exact and clear knowledge of laws in force, it is possible to achieve great results in the field of in-country adoption.

Number of adoptions concluded in each county in 1999, according to information provided by their representatives in questionnaires



Adoptions



**Holt Romania**

**Autoritatea Nationala pentru  
Protectia Copilului si Adoptie**



# ***ADOPTIA NATIONALA - O SOLUTIE***

**SEPTEMBRIE 2001**

*Motto: „ Orice copil are dreptul la o familie proprie”*

**Proiectul “Adoptia Nationala – O Solutie” a reprezentat un proiect parteneriat intre Representanta UNICEF in Romania, Autoritatea Nationala pentru Protectia Copilului si Adoptie si Holt Romania.**

Proiectul a oferit instruire si consultanta in domeniul adoptiei nationale – la scara nationala, pentru ca profesionistii Directiilor locale pentru Protectia Copilului si Comisiilor locale pentru Protectia Copilului sa dobandeasca cunostinte teoretice si experienta practica imbogatite, legat de adoptie ca program de protectie si bunastare a copilului si ca solutie alternativa la institutionalizarea copiilor abandonati.

Telul principal al acestui proiect a fost sa incurajeze adoptia nationala in Romania prin intarirea capacitatii locale si imbunatatirea serviciilor de adoptie. Acest proiect este menit sa fie un efort auto-sustinut si compatibil cu procesul general de reforma structurala din sistemul ocrotirii copilului in Romania si este unic din punct de vedere al manierei de desfasurare si tematicii abordate.

Printre obiectivele cele mai importante ale Proiectului “Adoptia Nationala – O Solutie” sunt:

- imbunatatirea calitatii serviciilor de adoptie oferite de catre profesionistii autoritatilor locale

- discutarea conceptului de standarde profesionale si obtinerea contributiei participantilor pentru alcatuirea standardelor profesionale pentru adoptie
- diversificarea serviciilor de adoptie oferite de profesionisti
- oferire de ajutor la crearea retelor regionale si nationale de adoptie nationala pentru a include grupurile de judete partenere.

Proiectul s-a desfasurat in perioada martie 2000 - iunie 2001. S-au organizat intalniri regionale la care au participat reprezentanti ai directiilor pentru Protectia Copilului si ai Comisiilor pentru Protectia Drepturilor Copilului din 4 judete invecinate, precum si reprezentanti ai Autoritatii Nationale pentru Protectia Copilului si Adoptie si ai organizatiilor non-guvernamentale. **La proiect au participat 149 profesionisti din 41 judete, experti si consilieri guvernamentali, 40 familii adoptive, 41 asistenti maternali.**

Subiectele abordate au atins intreaga complexitate si varietate a serviciilor procesului de adoptie.

Ca urmare a eforturilor conjugate ale autoritatilor publice si organizatiilor neguvernamentale romanesti si internationale, societatea romaneasca a ajuns sa recunoasca existenta problemelor pe care le implica institutionalizarea pe toate planurile macrosocial, microsocal si individual, precum si nevoia de a le rezolva adresandu-se cat mai precoce cauzelor lor fundamentale. Aceasta inseamna o schimbare a modului in care se concepe acordarea ingrijirii si a deplasarii in sensul

accentuarii eforturilor de a ajuta copiii in sanul familiilor lor biologice atunci cand ei sau familiile lor au dificultati ori in a identifica o familie care sa-i adopte.

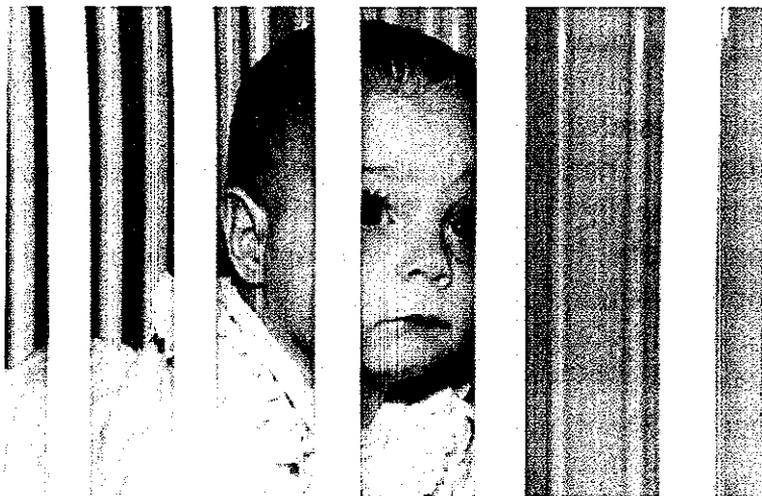
Profesionisti din domeniul Protectiei Copilului, atat din sectorul guvernamental cat si non-guvernamental, de la nivel local dar si central au dezbatut problematica adoptiei nationale actuale. In cadrul acestor intalniri, s-au identificat punctele tari si slabe ale serviciilor de adoptie nationala, dar in acelasi timp s-au facut recomandari sau sugestii care sa incurajeze si sa promoveze adoptia nationala in viitor.

Pentru a putea identifica solutii practice care sa sprijine **adoptia nationala** in viitor, ne-am gandit ca o **analiza mai generala a locului unde se situeaza aceasta** in prezent ar fi un bun punct de plecare. Aceasta evaluare generala a situatiei adoptiei nationale in toate judetele tarii s-a realizat prin chestionare transmise Directiilor local pentru Protectia Copilului la inceputul acestui proiect. Datele care au rezultat in urma interpretarii acestor chestionare de studiu preliminar sunt urmatoarele:

- Adoptia nationala este o solutie alternativa la institutionalizare folosita si aplicata in toata tara, fiind considerata in principal ca un serviciu social pentru copilul abandonat.

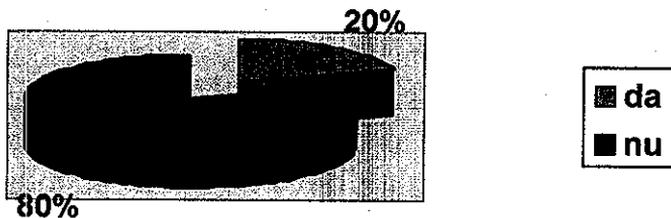
Adoptia este privita de majoritatea autoritatilor locale ca fiind a 3-a solutie alternativa la institutionalizare, anterior fiind enumerate incredintarea / plasamentul la familii sau

- persoane rude pana la gradul IV si plasament/ incredintarea la asistenti maternali.
- In toate judetele, exista cereri pentru adoptie nationala, desi profesionistii au raportat ca nivelul nu este satisfactor.
- Ca prima dificultate pe care judetele tarii o enumera in identificarea copiilor eligibili pentru adoptie este lipsa situatiei legale a copiilor. Greutatile aparute in aplicarea legilor si in colaborarea cu celelalte organisme implicate in clarificarea situatiei legale a copiilor abandonati franeaza procesul adoptiei nationale.
- Nivelul cererilor si a interesului pentru adoptie nationala este destul de redus, majoritatea judetelor (83%) raportand ca numarul copiilor eligibili este constant mai mare decat cel al familiilor adoptatoare. Numarul mare de cereri se evidentieaza la judetele care promoveaza o recrutare mai activa si dinamica.



- Adoptia nationala a copiilor de varsta mare este extrem de redusa in toate judetele tarii ( copil de varsta mare inseamna varste diferite in judete incepand de la 1 an pana la 10 ani)
- Sprijinul acordat de catre ONG-uri in Programul de Adoptie Nationala este destul de redus. Doar 6 judete au consemnat ca sunt organizatii nonguvernamentale care participa activ pe tot parcursul procesului de adoptie. In celelalte judete s-a precizat ca sprijinul acordat de ONG-uri se reflecta doar in faza clarificarii situatiei legale a copiilor abandonati si la faza de tribunal.

#### Judete cu ONG-uri specializate in adoptia nationala



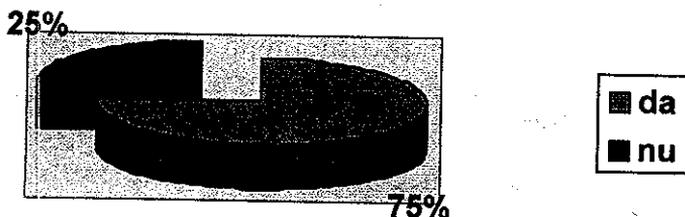
- Adoptia nationala intre judete este destul de rara, fiind considerata dificila datorita unei comunicari greoaie si a lipsei unei legaturi directe intre profesionistii dintre 2 judete .

In timpul celor 10 intalniri care au avut loc, reprezentantii autoritatilor locale, centrale, organizatii neguvernamentale si parinti adoptivi au discutat despre principalul obiectiv ca fiind respectarea drepturilor tuturor copiilor in conformitate cu Conventia ONU cu privire la respectarea Drepturilor Copilului. Aceasta Conventie este un bun fundament de la care trebuie sa pornim in elaborarea si respectarea unor politici sociale viabile. **Principiile Conventiei ONU cu privire la drepturile copilului nu trebuie numai intelese si interiorizate, ci si tratate si respectate ca ceva vital.** Simpla lor cunoastere nu ne ajuta la atingerea scopurilor.

Pornind de la acest consens si de la scopul intregului proiect s-au identificat cateva dintre necesitatile si conduitele care sa ajute la promovarea adoptiei nationale. Un deosebit accent s-a pus pe **resursele umane implicate in serviciile oferite prin adoptia nationala si in intreg procesul adoptiei nationale.** S-a constatat ca inainte de toate sunt necesare investitiile in oameni, prin ridicarea nivelului de profesionalism dar si a calitatii relatiilor dintre acestia. Aceasta inseamna ca profesionistii care lucreaza in domeniu au nevoie de o pregatire de specialitate periodica si oricand apare o modificare de legislatie sau metodologie. Legea si metodologia procesului de adoptie nu pot fi privite izolat de pachetul de legi si metodologii pentru aplicarea tuturor actelor juridice care privesc sau afecteaza existenta si viitorul unui copil. Prin profesionisti s-a facut referire la toti profesionistii care sunt implicati in procesul de adoptie:

persoane care lucreaza la Directiile si Comisiile locale pentru Protectia Drepturilor Copilului sau in organizatii neguvernamentale, reprezentanti ai Ministerului Sanatatii si Familiei, Ministerului Justitiei, Serviciului de Stare Civila din cadrul Consiliilor Locale, Ministerului Muncii si Protectiei Sociale.

Specialisti care simt nevoia unor clarificari legislative



Concluzia generala a Proiectului „Adoptia Nationala – O solutie” a fost ca o **dezbaterie comuna, a reprezentantilor autoritatilor centrale si locale, guvernamentale si neguvernamentale, a intregului proces de adoptie este absolut necesara si utila. Aceasta creaza o privire globala si integrala a Protectiei Copilului prin adoptie din punct de vedere legislativ - metodologic si a modului in care aceasta se reflecta la nivel local si in practica.**

O idee care a fost des discutata in cadrul acestor intalniri a fost infiintarea unui **Tribunal al Copilului**, care sa intruneasca persoane specializate in luarea deciziilor cu privire la respectarea drepturilor copilului. Din acest punct de vedere, participantii au considerat ca se vor evita multe intarzieri si chiar incalcari ale confidentialitatii cazurilor. Tribunalul ar trebui sa fie specializat in a judeca toate cazurile care privesc situatia unui copil, cu implicarea profesionistilor din toate organizmele implicate.

Dezvoltarea discutiei despre metodologia serviciilor de adoptie a reprezentat un pas inainte in identificarea si elaborarea unor cerinte minimale cu privire la serviciile pentru copil si familia adoptiva. **Consilierea si sprijinul de specialitate de care copiii si familiile adoptive au nevoie pe toata durata procesului de adoptie fac ca adoptia in intregul ei sa fie privita pozitiv si sa promoveze acest serviciu in viitor.**

Relatiile care s-au creat intre profesionistii care lucreaza in acelasi program dar in judete invecinate, au crescut **sansa promovarii adoptiei intre judete** si deci, sansa copilului abandonat de a avea o familie permanenta prin adoptia nationala. Discutarea si cunoasterea particularitatilor individuale de organizare si derulare a programului de adoptie au dus la intelegerea mai exacta a nevoilor locale si la identificarea de alternative si solutii in rezolvarea unor dificultati.

S-a evidenciat nevoia unor intalniri pe tematica adoptiei nationale la care sa participe pe linga profesionistii din Protectia Copilului si profesionisti din Ministerul Sanatatii si Familiei, Ministerul Muncii si Solidaritatii, Ministerul Justitiei. O relatie profesionala deschisa, o cunoastere a procesului de adoptie cu toate etapele acestuia precum si o intelegere a starii emotionale prin care trec copiii si familia in timpul adoptiei, ar da nastere la o mai buna intelegere si empatie a acestora din partea persoanelor responsabile cu derularea procesului. **O cunoastere egala** din partea tuturor celor implicati in procesul de adoptie, pana la finalizarea perioadei de urmarire post-adoptie, **a problematicii cu care se confrunta copilul si familia pe durata procesului de adoptie ar imbunatati atat legile cat si atitudinea etica fata de adoptie.**

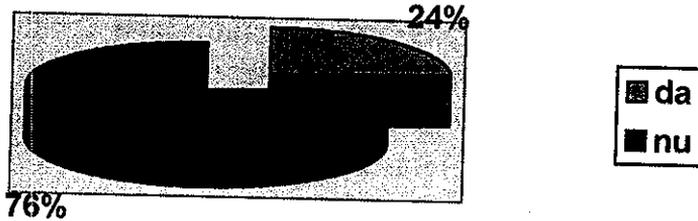
Un alt aspect care are **un rol major in promovarea adoptiei nationale este reprezentat de atitudinea si mentalitatea vis a vis de copilul adoptat si familia adoptiva.** Este nevoie de un efort general de ridicare a nivelului de constientizare a problematicii copilului abandonat pentru a obtine o schimbare de atitudine si mentalitate din partea comunitatii. Comunitatea care include atat profesionistii precum si parintii adoptivi sau ne-adoptivi, vecini, profesori, doctori, etc. are nevoie de mai multa mediatizare si informare in ceea ce priveste copilul adoptat. **Profesionistii trebuie sa gandeasca mai degraba intr-un mod mai empatic si mai dinamic in raport cu nevoia si profilul copilului si a familiei, si mai putin intr-un mod determinist.** Profesionistii care lucreaza

direct cu cazurile stiu ca nu intotdeauna procesul adoptiei este usor si calm. Noi trebuie sa invatam mereu, sa ne analizam si sa schimbam modul de abordare in functie de situatia specifica. Doar asa putem sa imbunatatim serviciile si calitatea lor - invatand unii de la ceilalti si de la beneficiarii nostri.

Copiii abandonati datorita circumstantelor specifice in care se gasesc au foarte multa nevoie de atentie si dragoste dar, in primul rand au nevoie de o familie permanenta prin adoptia nationala, comunitatea in ansamblul ei trebuie sa adopte o atitudine pozitiva si deschisa in tratarea acestor copii ca pe oricare altii.

Copiii nascuti in familie au parte de tot istoricul vietii lor chiar de la inceput. Parintii lor sunt cei care marcheaza si pastreaza momentele importante intr-o „Carte a Vietii ” , care devine un lucru important in viata viitorul adult. Din pacate pentru multi copii adoptati proveniti din institutii de ocrotire sau asistenta maternală luni si ani din viata lor sunt negre fara a avea nici o informatie despre trecutul lor si deci, se bazeaza pe noi, profesionistii ca sa le pastram intacte memoriile si momentele importante care se petrec in viata lor, pana cand ei vor avea o familie permanenta. „Cartea Vietii ” reprezinta istoria acelui copil si care urmeaza sa fie continuata de familia adoptiva pentru a reprezenta un sprijin in explicarea nasterii si adoptiei lui.

Judete care folosesc "Cartea Vietii" ca  
instrument specific



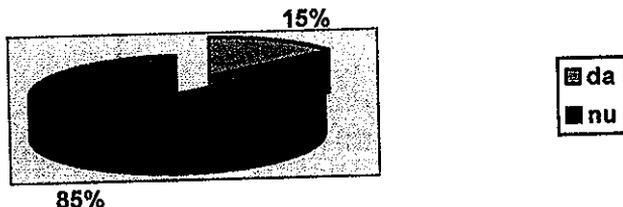
Un ultim aspect important in promovarea adoptiei nationale, dar fara a fi cel din urma sunt reprezentate de legile si metodologia adoptiei. Legile care reglementeaza adoptia trebuie privite in ansamblu cu celelalte legi active in protectia copilului, dar si cu legi care reglementeaza statutul parintilor adoptivi. O familie care adopta un copil mai mare de un an, nu poate beneficia de concediu de maternitate, desi acel copil din punct de vedere al „nasterii” in familia adoptiva abia s-a „nasterea”. In plus, copiii ca si familia adoptiva au mare nevoie de liniste, timp si acomodare in acele momente de inceput.

Pe toata durata desfasurarii proiectului, au avut loc intalniri cu familii adoptive. Din dialogul cu acestia, in incercarea de a identifica ce poate fi imbunatatit sau chiar schimbat in adoptia nationala in beneficiul copilului si a familiei lui, a

aparut des nevoia familiilor adoptive de a lucra cu un singur asistent social pe toata durata procesului de adoptie, incluzand si perioada de post-adoptie, mentionand relatia si increderea profesionala, dar deschisa care se construieste in timp si care sustine familia adoptiva pe perioada adoptiei conferind astfel siguranta, liniste si confort copilului adoptat. Pe de alta parte, profesionistul cunoscand copilul si nevoile lui specifice, precum si punctele tari si mai putin tari ale familiei adoptive, poate oferi consiliere profesionista care sa ajute copilul si familia sa depaseasca sau sa treaca peste situatii mai grele.

Experienta autoritatilor publice si private care au un Program Specializat de adoptie nationala au aratat ca gradul de satisfactie al nucleului copil-familie adoptie este crescut si, in plus influenteaza promovarea adoptiei nationale prin calitatea serviciilor oferite.

Judete cu program specializat de adoptie nationala in cadrul DJPDC-urilor



Din dialogul cu parintii adoptivi si prin participarea lor deschisa la aceste intalniri, se remarca **schimbarea continua in sensul pozitiv a mentalitatii comunitatii vizavi de adoptie**. Parintii sunt deschisi si gata sa promoveze adoptia datorita bucuriei de a avea un copil al lor si a experientei pozitive prin care au trecut.

Acest Proiect “ Adoptia Nationala – O Solutie” a creat premisele pentru:

- obtinerea unor pareri si opinii prin consultarea unui numar mare de profesionisti atat din sectorul guvernamental cat si din cel neguvernamental, precum si a beneficiarilor serviciilor, reprezentand o evaluare a situatiei adoptiei nationale in Romania.
- o cunoastere directa a celor ce lucreaza efectiv in programul de adoptie nationala, un schimb de idei, experienta proprie, discutii deschise pe cazuri concrete.
- identificarea si impartasirea unor metode eficiente de imbunatatire a calitatii serviciilor oferite prin adoptia nationala.
- contactul direct si discutiile libere pe care le-au putut avea profesionistii cu familii adoptatoare care sa exprime experienta proprie a beneficiarilor procesului de adoptie, pareri si sugestii care sa imbunatateasca serviciile oferite de catre profesionisti.

Printre factori care pot influenta pozitiv programul de adoptie in sensul promovarii adoptiei nationale si a cresterii calitatii serviciilor sociale, mentionam comunicarea deschisa intre

autoritatile publice, centrale si private in ceea ce priveste adoptia nationala, pentru a scurta timpul identificarii unei familii potrivite unui copil si pentru o implementare mai rapida si eficienta a modificarilor aparute in acest domeniu ; **recrutarea activa**, un alt factor important, care **ajuta atat la schimbarea mentalitatii comunitatii si la mediatizarea serviciilor de adoptie, dar si la identificarea de familii adoptatoare.** Din pacate, modalitatea predominanta de recrutare nu vizeaza un proces activ, dinamic ci se rezuma doar la liberul interes a familiilor de a adopta. Exista judete unde se practica o recrutare activa prin mass media, pliante, brosurile, interviuri cu parinti adoptivi si profesionisti, conferinte, fluturasi, etc iar acest lucru se reflecta evident in numarul mare de cereri de adoptii procesate. Prin campaniile de mediatizare a programului de adoptie nationala se mai atinge urmatorul obiectiv: constientizarea comunitatii cu privire la responsabilitatile fata de copil si familie in general si fata de adoptie in particular.

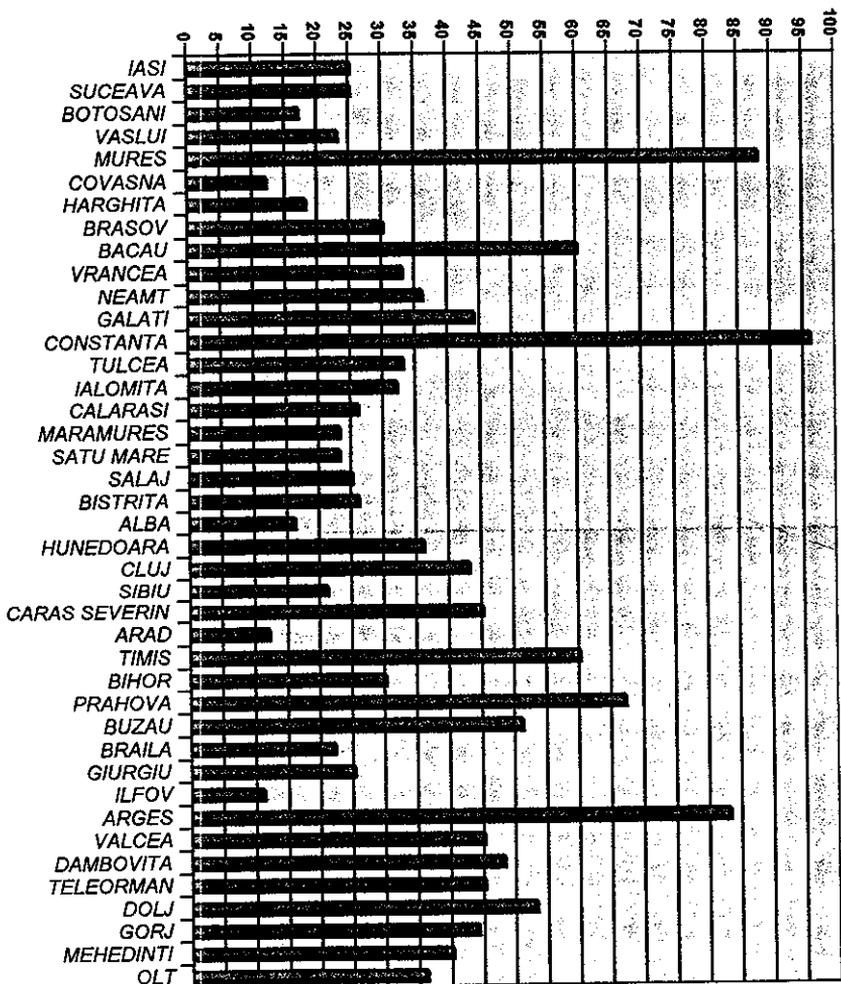
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Adoptia Nationala este un lucru deosebit care se poate intampla unui copil care nu a avut sansa sa ramana sau sa se intoarca in familia lui naturala. **A identifica o familie adoptiva potrivita unui copil abandonat si care sa-si asume angajamentul pentru apararea drepturilor acelui copil este o mare responsabilitate. A face ca adoptia**

**acelui copil in familia lui adoptiva sa se intample, profesional dar si cu daruire, este o datorie. A vedea cum un copil creste, se dezvolta si infloreste intr-o familie adoptiva care-l simte si traieste ca fiind nascut acolo este o recompensa a noastra ca profesionisti care facem tot ce ne sta in putinta ca acest lucru sa se intample fiecarui copil care are nevoie de o familie a lui permanenta.**

S-ar putea spune ca resurse umane adecvate, integritate, transparenta si daruire in administrarea resurselor si cunoasterea exacta si clara a legilor in vigoare se pot atinge rezultate mari in domeniul adoptiei nationale.

Numarul de adoptii efectuate in fiecare judet in anul 1999, conform datelor declarate de reprezentantii acestora in chestionarele completate



Adoptii