

PROJECT PEH021

“EDUC-PLUS Permanent Training and Professionalism for Quality Services Provided to Children in the Protection System”

Update of activities – October 2016

- The final conference of the project “EDUC-PLUS Permanent Training and Professionalism for Quality Services Provided to Children in the Protection System” PEH 021 was held on October 26, 2016. The event took place on the premises of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection Sector 1 – Social Services complex “Sf Ecaterina” building C Room 6.

The conference was attended by representatives of the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection from the beneficiary counties: Arad, Alba, Arges, Bacau, Buzau, Cluj, Ialomita, Mehedinti, Mures, Valcea, representatives of the Romanian Social Development Fund and of the National authority for the Protection of Child’s Rights and Adoption, as well as by specialists within GDSACPs from other sectors of Bucharest and from other counties, together with members of CRIPS and of GDSACP Sector 1.

At the conference, the results and impact of the project were presented, following the main axes: training of the educational staff in residential services, best practices for public-private partnership and participation of children. The beneficiaries of the project presented local experiences in implementing this project, stressing the importance of training of the educators from the child protective services and the success of the proposed training model, of the activities that stimulated the participation of children, of the events dedicated to strengthening public-private partnership.

- The practical guide on empowerment for the educators working in the residential care services was finalised under the project. The paper is a result of Activity 7 – Training of educators - module on “empowerment”. This practical guide formed the basis for the course support in the 12 course series for educators organised in each beneficiary county under Module IV, in September 2016. The guide entitled „Dezvoltarea capacitatii personale de actiune” (“Development of the personal action capacity”) is available on our website, under section *Materiale pedagogice/ Resurse text*.

- The electronical brochure “Impreuna pentru incluziunea sociala si non-discriminarea copiilor din servicii rezidentiale” (“Together for the social inclusion and non-discrimination of children from the protection system”) was finalised, presenting best practices of public-private partnership for the social inclusion and non-discrimination of children from residential care. The proposed examples are based on social services developed by the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection who are project beneficiaries in partnership with nongovernmental organisations, other public institutions such as school inspectorates or education units or with representative institutions of the community: the church, the library, the museum, the culture house etc. you are invited to consult the brochure on the website of the Virtual Resource Centre under section *Materiale pedagogice/ Resurse text*.

- Following the organization of the county seminars, based on the feedback of the participants to the draft Code of best practices that was presented to them as part of the seminar objectives, the Code of best practices was finalised and was uploaded on the website of the Virtual Resource Centre under section *Materiale pedagogice/ Resurse text*. The Code of best practices "ABC of partnership for a better integration in school and community of the children protected in residential care" was validated by the participants and the proposed recommendations were considered up to date, necessary and adapted to the current reality.
- An important activity in what concerns the promotion of the EDUC project results in other counties consisted in the organisation of three inter-county seminars, in the counties of Arges, Buzau and Mures. The seminars were held on October 18 (Pitesti), October 19 (Tg. Mures), October 20 (Buzau). The seminars occasioned the debate on the experience and impact of the EDUC PLUS project, and created the context for an exchange of experience with professionals from neighbouring counties. The relevant aspects of the project were highlighted, special emphasis being placed on the role of the training modules, the importance of the personal development of educators in their work with the protected children, children's views in the debate-workshops "We and the community."
- After the finalisation of the 4TH Module of training on empowerment of educational staff, the 240 educators belonging to the residential care services within the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (the 10 project beneficiaries and the project partner) prepared for the final evaluation by the National Authority for Qualifications, in the second half of October. The four training modules that they attended throughout the project ensured their preparation in order to provide services of an increased quality to the children who are beneficiaries of the protective system, but also to address in an effective manner the challenges of this profession.