



concordia
SOCIAL PROJECTS



CONCORDIA Social Projects
Activity Report 2019/2020

CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS is an independent international aid organization, that supports children, young people and families in need. As a result of our work we foster self-determined, autonomous people who go on to live successful lives.

We go to where the need is greatest and where others do not go.

We seek individual solutions for children, young people and their families.

Our philosophy is based on Christian values and we serve all cultures and religions.

Most importantly, we do not give up on anyone.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Dear Members of the CONCORDIA Family!

CONCORDIA Social Projects was founded to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our society; the children, young people and families caught in a cycle of adversity and poverty. As a privileged member of the “upper class”, CONCORDIA has also changed my life for the better and has given it a new meaning.

Father Georg Sporschill SJ has always understood the complex issues that result from poverty and I wanted to financially support his efforts to offer solutions. However, another patron of CONCORDIA, Christian Konrad, felt that I should also share my entrepreneurial expertise until we could establish a stable operational structure for the rapidly growing CONCORDIA.

For 17 years I have been involved in this wonderful organization, which is like a big family to me. I first acted as a consultant in organizational matters, and soon thereafter as Chairman of the Advisory Board until finally my role as Chairman of the Board. I wouldn't want to miss playing an active part in this organization because of the togetherness and solidarity that can only be found in such a community.

The Coronavirus pandemic makes the CONCORDIA's social outreach tasks more difficult and the need in our project countries will become more evident. The strong and resilient structure of our organization is supported by our employees. The work we do protects children, young people and families in the most vulnerable economic areas in Europe. With our exceptional staff and the generous support we receive from you, dear readers, CONCORDIA is able to fulfill its mission to go where the need is greatest.

I would like to thank all of you who have made this possible and everyone who has contributed to our work.

As my 75th birthday approached, it was certainly high time to hand my responsibility at CONCORDIA over to the younger generation. It took a year, but now the time has come. The Advisory Board appointed my esteemed colleague, Ulla Konrad, as the new Chairwoman of the International Board. Ulla transferred her function to Bernhard Drumel who is now the International Executive Director. To my great excitement, the CEO of STRABAG SE, Thomas Birtel, will bring new valuable capacity as a new member of the executive team. Father Markus Inama SJ will continue to be the spiritual guide.

The Advisory Board has released me from my duties with – I believe to this extent undeserved – great honors. My commitment to CONCORDIA will not end here but will continue in a new role. I will remain involved in the CONCORDIA family which is for many of the most economically marginalized people we serve their only chance for a dignified life.

I hope that you stay in touch with us and maintain your positive contribution towards CONCORDIA's social projects.



Hans Peter Haselsteiner, Honorary President of CONCORDIA







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I find it terrifying that in the heart of Europe there are still countries where half of the children are at risk of existential poverty.

For many years, CONCORDIA has been giving a hand where the need is greatest. We will advance this mission with all our strength. No child should be left behind.

Bernhard Drumel
International Executive Director,
CONCORDIA Social Projects



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

CONCORDIA Social Projects is a network of a non-profit foundations based in Vienna, Austria, and four affiliated non-profit-organizations in Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Germany. We support children, young people and families in need through quick and direct interventions that have lasting positive impacts on their lives. Our work is oriented to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations.

GROWING UP IN THE FAMILY OF ORIGIN

1 NO POVERTY



A child develops best raised within their biological family. Our holistic approach helps to assess which form of support parents with diverse problems need so that their children can grow up with them and thus prevent them from being separated. We offer a multifaceted program of recreational pedagogy and tutoring at our day care centers, catered to the individual needs of children. In addition, mobile teams work with their parents to help them find solutions to their problems. This holistic form of care ensures that families master difficult challenges together and that children grow up in their families of origin (Goal 1 of the SDGs).

a great challenge to choose an educational path and stick to it. We help the children select a school and maintain a mentoring role until the completion of their education by supporting them through managing both school-related and personal problems (Goal 4 of the SDGs).

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



We firmly believe that poverty stricken young people and families can lead autonomous and self-determined lives. Achieving economic independence is a significant part of attaining this goal. CONCORDIA provides support through day care centers for children, counselling and professional coaching so parents can regain a foothold in the working world. In addition, we offer young people, who were previously unable to complete training due to personal difficulties, the opportunity to attend our vocational schools and complete work experience through our various social initiatives. (Goal 8 of the SDGs).

NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER



Through early interventions we try to break the cycle of poverty for children and families. Mobile multi-disciplinary teams identify the most affected families in the communities. Often they work together with the families creating tailor made solutions and action plans for healing and development. Often we help these families satisfy their basic needs such as nutrition and access to education and medical care for the first time (Goal 2 of the SDGs).

REDUCING INEQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



In our project countries we tackle systemic inequalities and develop concrete strategies and programs to identify and support people who are on the margins of society. We contribute to a more socially cohesive society by helping to identify discriminatory policies, norms and behaviors. CONCORDIA is a powerful ally for economically and socially marginalized people in our project countries (Goal 10 of the SDGs).

QUALITY EDUCATION

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



We help young people access quality education. For children who cannot expect support from their family, it is

* Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations, 2015

A SAFE HOME

Poverty, illness, violence, a lack of job prospects, forced migration and conflict are just some of the reasons why children and young people are separated from their biological parents. In order to enable these children and young people to have a loving and safe childhood, CONCORDIA offers them a place like home.

STAYING TOGETHER

Since December 2018, DANA, STELA AND DORIN* have been living with five other children in the family-like house Casa Caroline in Ariceştii Rahtivani, Romania. There, the three siblings find the security and affection they need. Dana, 13, is the oldest of the trio. They have already had to endure a lot of suffering and bad experiences in their young lives. Their father died and their mother is in prison for

the second time. Dorin, the youngest of the three, has been living at CONCORDIA facilities for five years. He is now nine years old. Stela is eleven and clearly the liveliest of the three. She already knows that she wants to become a veterinarian when she grows up. She discovered her love for animals while playing with the house dog, Bruno, whom she adoringly cares for.



* In order to protect personal rights, all the names of supervised persons were changed in this report.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

When children experience an acute family crisis and have to leave their homes they are placed in assisted housing groups. There they live together in small groups and a team consisting of social workers, psychologists, educators and caregivers takes on the responsibilities of the family of origin: From the organization of everyday life to the psychological care of children, who often have traumatic experiences behind them, the team stands by their side. If a situation stabilizes, some children can return to their families of origin. If this is not possible, CONCORDIA offers a choice of accommodation options for each of them – depending on the needs of the child.

FAMILY-LIKE SMALL GROUP HOMES

In Romania, CONCORDIA was able to successfully complete the four-year process of deinstitutionalizing large institutions last year. With the support of CONCORDIA, many of the young adults who were in these institutions now live in their own housing units and several children were able to go back to their homes. With the opening of Casa Elisabeth in October 2019, CONCORDIA Romania is now operating another family-like residential group. Those children, formerly housed in larger institutions and who cannot be reintegrated into their families of origin also live in these residential groups. There they find the peace, security, stability they urgently need in order to thrive.

PLACEMENT IN A FOSTER FAMILY

Children who need special protection and for whom reintegration into their family of origin is out of the question, will find stability and loving care in a CONCORDIA foster home. The foster parents often raise their biological children alongside children who have been rescued. Up to seven children can live together in a household and the foster parents are carefully selected and undergo thorough training in CONCORDIA's methodology and values. This ensures that they are able to care for their foster children in the best possible way and offer all the support they need to become self-determined adults. They are coached every step of the way by mobile CONCORDIA teams consisting of social workers and psychologists. These teams support foster parents in their day-to-day challenges, but also help keep the children in contact with their biological families. It is very important for the children to know their own roots and we never give up on the possibility that some children can go back to their original families.



COME WHAT MAY

LILJANA (9) and MARIANA (8) stick together! The sisters have been living in the Bozhurishte residential group in Bulgaria since April 2019. Two representatives of the state social service discovered the siblings while they were foraging in a garbage can. It became clear that Liljana and Mariana's parents were not able to care for their children and they were entrusted to the CONCORDIA crisis center team. Malnourished and neglected, the girls had to first be nursed back to physical and psychological health. Initially, the two were very fearful and shy and only spoke to each other. The team began to draw them out of their shells by slowly encouraging the girls to participate in daily house activities. The result has been they have opened up, are cheerful and talkative. The CONCORDIA team also works with the girls' mother and grandmother ensuring that they remain in contact.



Maya and her husband live with their five foster children in a house near Chişinău in the Republic of Moldova. For the first time in their lives the children have experienced emotional security and are able to trust. On weekends their adult foster children often come back to visit them. There is a lot of love and respect in the house.

SUPERVISED CARE COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

One of our big goals is to enable adolescents and young adults to live independently. In order to give them the opportunity to experience what this means CONCORDIA offers supervised shared apartments as a transitional base before independence. They are accompanied and supported by a mobile team of social workers who visit them on a regular basis. Each of these adolescents has a caregiver who will

guide and assist them with issues concerning their education and later, career choices. CONCORDIA has a range of residential solutions for young people that range from separate living units to rooms in affordable social apartments for those who are already working, but cannot afford their own accommodation yet.



BUILDING UP TRUST

Children who find a new home with one of our foster families, or in one of our family-like care groups have faced personal and social horrors including abuse, violence, neglect and separation from their families. These deprivations are often expressed through nervous, aggressive behavior. When loan came to one of our residential groups in Sofia, he presented our social workers with major challenges. This eleven-year-old boy had been beaten and starved in his lifetime of deprivation. During the day he was moody and provocative. At night he cried himself into a restless sleep. His recovery is going to take dedication and time but with each step we take with him he is learning to regain his trust and develop friendships with other children. This would not have been possible without the positive attention and care he receives within the residential group. He is part of a home unit where he is seen, valued and loved.





Maria, 82 years old, lives alone in a small house. After her husband died young she never remarried. She has no relatives and the surrounding houses are deserted. Social assistants from CONCORDIA Moldova visit people like Maria providing them with warm meals every day and ensure that the wood stove, the only source of heat, is always lit in winter.

ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS

Besides working with children and young adults CONCORDIA is also committed to providing both short- and long-term assistance that has true impact by helping the elderly, adults in emergencies and those with physical and mental disabilities. The outreach can be in the form of providing temporary housing, emergency accommodation and full-service housing for people with disabilities.



the women and men, who, for example, live at Casa Hannes and Sf. Lazar in Bucharest, have been guided and cared for by CONCORDIA staff for a long time. Mistreated as children in state homes and later, living on the street, these women and men have permanent protection and psychological care.

TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

At CONCORDIA, young adults who have no income are able to find accommodation for the night, get a hot meal and clean themselves. In most cases, the youth are living on the streets and the assistance they receive with medical and personal problems gives them a chance to stabilize themselves. At their own behest, social workers in our facilities support them in a search for an apartment, a job or in dealing with various authorities. Some of the young adults under our care are able to escape the poverty trap and lead a more stable and independent life.

FULLY SUPERVISED LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In the countries we work in we have discovered that people with mental or physical disabilities do not receive adequate support. Often, they are simply locked away in a clinic and are basically left to their own devices. At CONCORDIA, we offer fully assisted living, day-to-day help and a work-related structure. Some of

Women like Lidia fall through the state social care network in our project countries. Abused as home children under Ceaușescu, severely traumatized and marked for a lifetime, they would also be left to themselves today.





CARE TAKING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Children and young people have a right to grow up nurtured and cared for in their families of origin. However, when this care is not possible and at the point where parents are unable to support and raise their children in the best possible way, CONCORDIA steps in. We adopt preventive intervention and address the immediate needs within a family so that separation of the children from their parents is not even an option. We mediate in conflict situations, support the parents with parenting advice as well job coaching and assisting in work placement.

MOBILE SOCIAL OUTREACH

Not everyone manages to seek help – often due to a lack of knowledge or false expectations regarding what is available in times of need. However, it is a more crippling aspect that prevents reaching out; a feeling shame. This is why our social workers go to the families and offer help in the most sensitive way. This non forceful intervention helps build trust and enables relationships between the care giver and those in need to develop in familiar surroundings. This enables our professional staff to make a considered assessment and provide unique solutions for each case. Some of the issues families face involve questions on raising a healthy child, how best to educate them as well as administrative support in obtaining documents for financial or material support.



JOB COACHING

Financial independence is the basis for a stable life and, beyond that, for healthy self-esteem and the opportunity for social inclusion. Families can only stay to-

gether permanently if financial security is guaranteed which is why it is particularly important to support young people and adults who struggle to find employment. CONCORDIA assists with the preparation of documents, helps with the search for training, and offers practical support in communicative and social skills to prepare for job interviews. In addition, CONCORDIA can also provide job placement for the youth under our care.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

The first contact we usually make with children and adolescents in our day centers occurs because they come to us for a daily hot meal, shower and change of clothes. But much more is happening in these CONCORDIA facilities. They are places where children can be children, can enjoy the experience of having fun, being creative and learning different sports. Our summer camps offer a much-needed break from the harsh realities of life and unites everyone in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

Education and training are not only the best way out of poverty, but the basis for a self-determined life. This is the reason CONCORDIA's work strongly focuses on the promotion of education and training. We advocate a holistic approach to education, which should not only teach literacy and numeracy skills but also develop key competences like creativity, social responsibility, self-awareness and self-agency.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As well as caring for the children's school going needs, we offer extracurricular programs that enable the creative development of individuals. Sports and movement provide a vital balance to their difficult everyday lives.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Early childhood development and nurturing care form the basis for a child to be able to successfully complete their education. Children from difficult backgrounds who receive little family or social support are recipes for troubled lives and very few complete their education. CONCORDIA offers programs that awaken learning ability and individual resources in a playful way that strengthen social and emotional competencies for each child. This support aims to give them a better start in life.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

By learning a professional trade like being a baker, cook, hairdresser or waiter/waitress, young people who have (for whatever reasons) been excluded from completing their education are able to find meaningful employment. In order to prevent premature dropouts, it is important for us to promote social learning. Our training is very practical and prepares our apprentices for a successful career.



I am very happy that my siblings also go to Casa Cristina and I meanwhile support the extra-curricular and tutoring activities myself through my voluntary work. The fact that I am now studying is also thanks to the day care center for children.

Evelina (20)

EVELINA was one of the first children to spend her afternoons learning and playing at CONCORDIA after the opening of Casa Cristina six years ago. Today she is studying at the Faculty of Education at the University of Pitești.

LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT: THE CONCORDIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

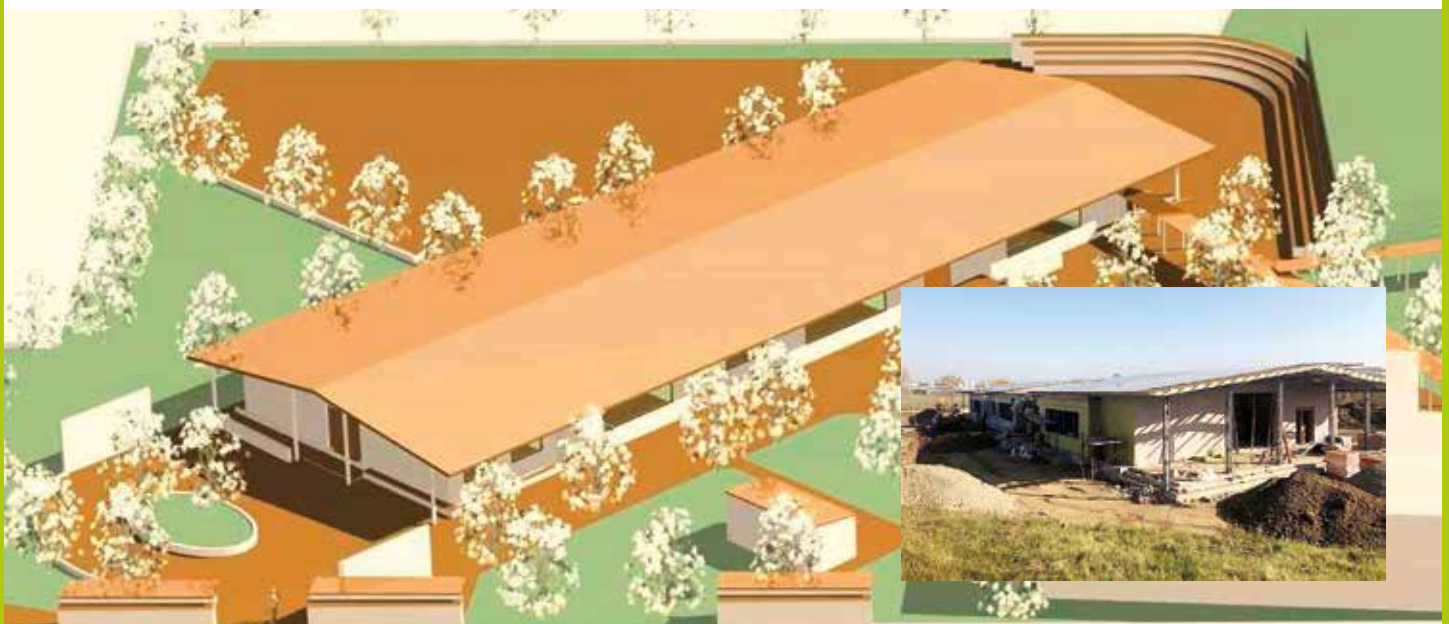
More than half of the children in the slums of Eastern Europe cities and children from the poorest of rural areas never attend a school. They live in shacks with no plumbing, no clean clothes, some do not even wear shoes. Many parents are ashamed of their circumstances and as a result do not send their children to school. Older children often stay away from school because they have to take care of their younger siblings if their parents get to do a day's labor.



Since autumn 2019, we have been building a primary school on the outskirts of Ploiești that particularly supports disadvantaged children. Five classes are planned, each with 20 students from all strata of society who learn with and from each other. In cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, specially trained teaching staff will ensure the progress of every child in school. Our new primary school will play a pioneering role in the Romanian education system after it opens.

ALL-DAY SCHOOL – COMPLETION PLANNED FOR AUTUMN 2020

The construction of the school is made possible by donations. Day-to-day operations are to be financed by an income-dependent school fee: Parents who can afford to pay school fees offset the costs of those who cannot. The advantage of this model relies on the exceptional quality of the Austrian education system and is further supported through the partnership with the Austrian Ministry of Education.





A social business project at CONCORDIA has to fulfill two criteria: It has a social mission and has to generate at least 50% of its annual budget through product sales or services.

BREAD & BREAKFAST – HOSTEL BUKAREST

The “Bread and Breakfast” hostel on the Piața Concordiei has an in-house coffee shop and has been in operation since autumn 2017. It currently offers six young people practical work experience with an employment contract and fifteen others the opportunity to do an internship. With 2,181 satisfied guests, the feedback has been consistently positive so far. ▶ www.breadandbreakfast.ro



CONCORDIA BAKERY

In addition to supplying all CONCORDIA facilities in Romania with bread, there are also many loyal customers, such as kindergartens and schools, to whom we supply our products. A total of 251 catering events took place at the Coffee Shop and 226,839 products were sold to 1,994 customers. A new supply agreement with IKEA has been established and CONCORDIA baked goods are now available in IKEA shops in Romania.

90% of our apprentices were successfully integrated into the labor market after completing their training.

Result of the external impact study on the CONCORDIA bakery

CONCORDIA CANDLE WORKSHOP

In 2019, more than 3,563 candles were created and beautifully decorated at the candle workshop in Sofia that were later sold through various markets.

CONCORDIA AGRICULTURE

Like the bakery, the agriculture facility in Ariceștii Rahtivani also covers CONCORDIA Romania’s own needs, and also sells products to companies in the region.

SELF-RELIANT: A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE CONCORDIA HAIRDRESSING SALON



In 2019, the CONCORDIA hairdressing salon welcomed over 1,262 customers. CONCORDIA is particularly proud of its former apprentices Bozhidar and Tanya. The two completed their training as hairdressers in the CONCORDIA hairdressing salon and graduated with distinction at the end of 2018. Shortly thereafter, they expressed the wish to open their own hair salon in their neighborhood in Sofia. They opened it in March 2019. CONCORDIA provided them with the necessary equipment and hairdressing accessories and provided them with advice on their path to business success. Their hard work and effort was worth it! In the meantime, the two have been able to build up a customer network. We share our happiness with Bozhidar and Tanja and wish them continued success!

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The sense of our being together is to bring people who want to help and those who need help into contact with one another and to create a network that ensures cohesion in our society and far beyond.

P. Markus Inama SJ





VOLUNTARY SERVICE

CONCORDIA is part of the Welt Weg Weiser network, the Austrian Service Agency for Foreign Missions (Jugend Eine Welt). Together we have developed quality standards for assignments abroad and ensure the best possible framework conditions and learning experience for volunteers.

512 DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WERE IN ACTION FOR CONCORDIA IN ROMANIA, BULGARIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN 2019 AND PERFORMED

67.324 HOURS OF WORK.

CONCORDIA Social Projects offer high-quality and meaningful international volunteer work. Our volunteers are professionally prepared for their assignments and individually supervised during their time with us.

Volunteers work to offer diverse services from catering in the day centers to organizing leisure time activ-

ities and creative workshops with children and young people. Tutoring is also required at our after-school projects. Our aged beneficiaries require caring for in social centers or at home.

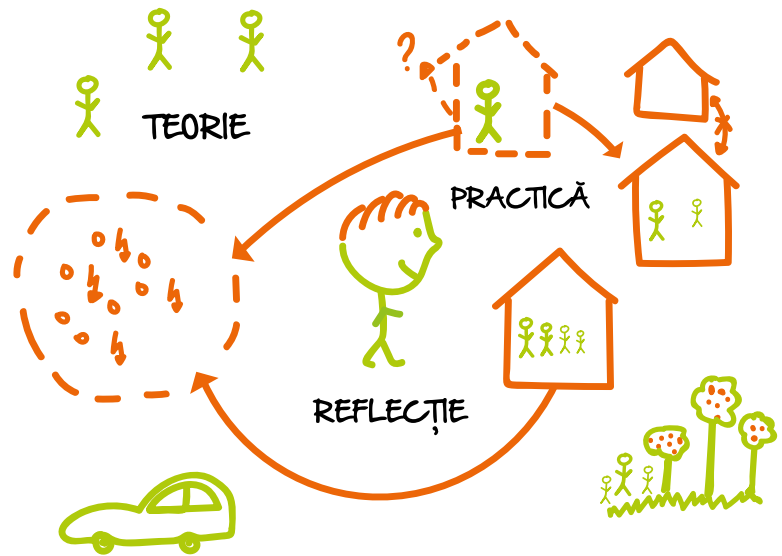
We thank all of our volunteers. They are a great support without whom many things would not be possible!



“ Being part of CONCORDIA for six months gave me the opportunity to participate in something bigger, more moving and sustainable. Stepping out of your own comfort zone, traveling to a foreign country, learning the language and coming into contact with the people here simply does not leave you unaffected and has personally strengthened and pushed me forward in life.

Miriam Obermayr, volunteer at Casa Cristina in Ploiești, Romania

CONCORDIA offers essential, innovative training programs for social workers who often don't have access to professional skills development. Thus CONCORDIA Academia builds a bridge between theory and practice and makes an important and necessary contribution to the continued development and enhancement of social workers in our project countries and to international professional exchange.



The annual conference of the CONCORDIA Academia brought together over 130 representatives of public and private organizations from Romania, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova and Austria to evaluate the training needs of social workers and to assess child protection needs.

Developed in 2014, the Academia now looks back on a wealth of experience in adult education and

builds upon a proven network of experts in supervision and coaching. In 2019, more than 400 experts from CONCORDIA Social Projects and other private and public organizations took part in the education and training activities in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.



94 CERTIFICATIONS IN
SOCIAL MANAGEMENT

117 TRAINING COURSES
FOR PARTICIPANTS
OF VARIOUS
ORGANIZATIONS

253 PERSONS
REGULARLY
TAKE PART IN
SUPERVISION SESSIONS

176
TRAINING DAYS

AUSTRIA

Vienna is not only the headquarter of CONCORDIA's foundation, but since 2015 it has also been the location of projects that focus on the specific challenges of integrating children, young people and families who have refugee status. Despite the low level of child poverty compared to other European countries, social background still strongly determines the future path of life in Austria. Children who are victims of forced migration are often at risk of poverty. Educational advancement is particularly difficult for them.

7% of children from educationally deprived households have a university degree.

BULGARIA

The few positive economic developments in Bulgaria reach a privileged urban minority. Children from families who have no economic standing, who are under skilled and from outlying rural areas are particularly affected by discrimination and poverty. Catastrophic living conditions combined with unemployment and systemic discrimination create a vicious circle that is difficult to break out of. Some children in the poverty-stricken areas of Sofia, the so-called "mahalas," never go to school or are placed in a special needs class.

33,9%
of Bulgarian children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

13% of all children are born every year to women without health insurance and with limited access to health care.

44% of Moldovans have no access to clean drinking water.

27,8% of Moldovan youths neither go to school nor practice a profession.

400.000 children of school going age do not attend school regularly.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The former Soviet Republic has existed as the independent state “Republic of Moldova” since 1991. Due to the high level of unemployment and the lack of employment opportunities, Moldova is the country with the highest labor migration. About 1.5 (out of a total of 3.5) million Moldovans live and work abroad. Children are left behind and lonely old people are part of the sad reality. The situation is dramatic in rural areas where there is no access to clean drinking water and inadequate medical care. It all adds up to a tragic struggle for survival.

ROMANIA

The proportion of those at risk from poverty and social exclusion remains very high. Structural deficiencies, poor health care and corruption ranks Romania second worst in the EU for a country’s quality of life. High youth unemployment and emigration pose major problems. Children are often abandoned when their parents go looking for work. The situation of Roma children in Romania is especially precarious. Although legally on an equal footing, Roma are still not treated equally. The majority live in inhumane conditions with poor infrastructure.

In 2019, CONCORDIA's diverse and inclusive social projects impacted a total of 7,779 people with at least one act of help. In detail, this was 2,113 people in Romania, 3,536 in the Republic of Moldova, 1,759 in Bulgaria and 371 in Austria.



ROMANIA

ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS

ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG
ADULTS AND SENIORS

FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATION AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SOCIAL BUSINESS

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	SINCE					
Day Care Center Casa Alexandra	Ploiești	2015			103	49	
Family-Like Care Group Casa Austria	Ploiești	2000	25		88		
Day Care Center Casa Cristina	Ploiești	2013			125	94	
Supervised Care Group for Adolescents Casa Eva	Ploiești	2005	32		4		
Supervised Care Group Casa Hannes	București	2015		6			
Social Apartments Casa Iuda	București	2009		31			
CONCORDIA Vocational School	Ploiești	2010				250	
Family-Like Care Group Casa Ursula	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2017	7		17		
Family-Like Care Group Casa Caroline	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2018	11		14		
Family-Like Care Group Casa Elisabeth	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2019	9		19		
Job Coaching	București	2013			642		
Supervised Care Group for Adolescents Casa Abraham	Ploiești	2009		92			
Supervised Care Group Sf. Paul	București	1999		52			
Summer Camps for Chronically Ill Children	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2019			72		
Mobile Social Work	Ploiești	2013			235		
CONCORDIA Agriculture	Ploiești	2010					4
CONCORDIA Bakery	Ploiești	2010					10
CONCORDIA Bread & Breakfast	București	2017					6
Family-Like Care Group City of the Children	Ploiești	2001	21				
Kindergarten Mimi	Ploiești	2015				57	
Social Apartments and Supervised Care Group Sf. Lazar	București	2002		116			
CONCORDIA Academia	București	2017				431	
			105	297	1.319	881	20

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND SENIORS

FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SOCIAL BUSINESS

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	SINCE					
Social Center Zâmbete creative	Antonești	2018			80	20	
Foster Family Casa Norocului	Basarabeasca	2015	7				
Social Center Beștemac	Beștemac	2018			47	8	
Soup Kitchen Casa Bunicilor	Brăviceni	2018			44	6	
Foster Family Casa Bunătății	Cahul	2016	6				
Soup Kitchen Casa Așteptărilor	Carahasani	2018			38		
Family-Like Care Group Casa Concordia	Chișinău	2004	19				
Foster Family Casa Atașamentului	Căușeni	2015	9				
Social Center Binecuvântarea	Cazangic	2018			81	24	
Soup Kitchen Încredere	Chetrosu	2018			73	22	
Foster Family Casa Viitorului	Chișinău	2018	8				
Foster Family Casa Înțelepciunii	Cimișlia	2015	6				
Foster Family Casa Înțelegerii	Cimișlia	2015	5				
Social Center Renaștere	Ciuciuleni	2018			76	17	
Soup Kitchen Bătrânețe fericită	Cobîlea	2018			56	10	
Foster Family Casa Încrederii	Cojușna	2018	16				
Social Center Solidaritate	Congaz	2008		15	74	40	
Social Center Baștina	Cosăuți	2018	19	2	46	26	
Soup Kitchen Alinare	Coșenița	2018			60	12	
Foster Family Casa Fericirii	Coșnița	2015	8				
Foster Family Casa Curajului	Criuleni	2015	10				
Foster Family Casa Creativității	Criuleni	2015	8				
Family-Like Care Group Casa Prieteniei	Doroțcaia	2015	15				
Social Center Călăuza	Doroțcaia	2018			56	17	
Foster Family Casa Speranței	Drochia	2018	9				
Foster Family Casa Empatiei	Drochia	2018	5				
Foster Family Casa Egalității	Drochia	2018	4				
Social Center Eternitate	Dubăsarii Vechi	2008		17	101	44	
Foster Family Casa Dăruirii	Durlești	2018	6				
Social Center Căldura sufletească	Ghetlova	2018			79	29	

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS

ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG
ADULTS AND SENIORS

FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATION AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SOCIAL BUSINESS

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	SINCE					
Soup Kitchen Lumină	Gura Galbenei	2018			54	11	
Soup Kitchen Caritate	Holercani	2018	9		77	15	
Assisted Living Casa Ignatius	Chişinău	2017		25			
Social Center Demnitate	Lăpuşna	2019		7	47		
Soup Kitchen Nadejda	Mărculeşti	2018			63		
Soup Kitchen Înţelegerii	Maximeni	2018			76	5	
Soup Kitchen Acord	Mîndreşti	2018			87	27	
Soup Kitchen Familia	Mingir	2018			89	44	
Soup Kitchen ProViaţă	Negrea	2018			35	10	
Social Center ProDezvoltare	Nisporeni	2010	20		19	19	
Social Center Casa Nadejda	Pîrîta	2004			61	14	
Social Center Alternativa	Pleşeni	2008		16	68	47	
Soup Kitchen Rază de Soare	Rădoaia	2018			63	16	
Soup Kitchen Vatra	Răduleni Vechi	2018			43	4	
Family-Like Care Group Casa Tineretii	Ruseştii Noi	2019	11				
Social Center Casa Părintească	Sănătăuca	2008	1	20	101	39	
Soup Kitchen Din Inimă	Sărata Răzeşi	2018			46	11	
Social Center Mângâiere	Satul Nou	2018			44	2	
Soup Kitchen Binefacerii	Sofia	2018			82	10	
Foster Family Casa Siguranţei	Şoldăneşti	2018	8				
Social Apartments Stăuceni	Stăuceni	2018		29			
Social Center Armonie	Taraclia	2008		25	120	53	
Social Center Casa Rebeca	Tîrnova	2015	18		25	25	
Social Center Empatie	Tudora	2008		24	150	68	
Social Center Izvorul vieţii	Văleni	2007		32	93	52	
Youth Club	Chişinău	2017			160	144	
Family Social Work and Emergency Aid					654		
			227	212	3.168	891	0

BULGARIA

ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS

ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG
ADULTS AND SENIORS

FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATION AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SOCIAL BUSINESS

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	SINCE					
Social and Day Care Center Sveti Konstantin	Sofia	2008					
Supervised Care Group for Adolescents Dunav/ Ropotamo	Sofia	2008	7	9			
Emergency Shelter & Social Center Zdrawei Yantra	Sofia	2008		107	192		
Day Care Center Posoka	Sofia	2018				46	
Crisis Center for Children	Sofia	2019	10				
Family-Like Care Group Bozhurishte	Bozhurishte	2014	13				
Supervised Care Group for Adolescents Timok	Sofia	2014		8			
Mobile Social Work	Sofia	2008			1.033		
Social and Day Care Center Orlandovtzi	Sofia	2019			147		
Social and Day Care Center Zaharna fabrika	Sofia	2017			230		
Soccer Club	Sofia	2015			103		
Therapeutic Art Workshop	Sofia	2018			22		
CONCORDIA Candle Workshop	Sofia	2015					2
CONCORDIA Hairdressing Salon	Sofia	2010					7
			30	124	1.727	46	9

AUSTRIA

ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS

ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG
ADULTS AND SENIORS

FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATION AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SOCIAL BUSINESS

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	SINCE	ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND SENIORS	FAMILY SOCIAL WORK	EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING	SOCIAL BUSINESS
Tutoring	Vienna	2016				44	
Basic Education	Vienna	2016				30	
Family Social Work	Vienna	2016			66		
Integration Work	Vienna	2016			225		
Social Apartment LenZ Urban	Vienna	2018		6			
			0	6	291	74	0

Dieses Projekt wird durch den Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds und das Bundesministerium für Europa, Integration und Äußeres kofinanziert.





DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

When CONCORDIA started working in Romania 29 years ago, the children who had traumatic experiences in their early years at the children's and youth homes of the Ceaușescu dictatorship were overlooked. Over-sized institutions with a large number of children remained in place for a long time after the dictator was deposed. With the deinstitutionalization path prescribed by the EU, which provides for the closure of large childcare facilities with up to 150 children, children who cannot grow up with their biological parents are to live in foster families or in family-like residential groups. This positive development has led to CONCORDIA creating four houses for family-like, small residential communities in order to provide a caring home for dispossessed children.

MORE THAN JUST A HOUSE

Casa Montafon was built in the Romanian city of Ploiești as a family-like residential house in 2002. The project was instigated by former board chairperson Silvretta Montafon Kurt Bitschnau and with the help of his family and many donors. The house needed renovation after standing for many years and Silvretta Montafon raised the funds necessary for its renovation. Since the reopening of Casa Montafon in November 2019, 15 pupils from the CONCORDIA vocational school have been living there during their apprenticeship. We thank the representatives of the Montafon region and Silvretta Montafon for their support!

SF. LAZAR RECONSIDERED

The Sf. Lazar Social Center in Bucharest has also undergone several changes in the past year. In order to support people on their journey from homelessness to being re-integrated into the labor market, the emergency shelter spaces have been redesigned into social apartments. For those who cannot enter the job market and have no chance of a regular income, daytime activities are offered at the CONCORDIA workshop. In addition to assisted living facilities for women at Casa Hannes, CONCORDIA has also created assisted social apartments for young men with mental disabilities at the new Sf. Lazar.

YES – YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The “YES – Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” conference organized by CONCORDIA Moldova was a pivotal example of the measures being undertaken to support young people on their way to being independent adults. The unstable situation in the Republic of Moldova particularly affects socially disadvantaged young people – especially those who grew up in a care facility (“care leavers”) and who do not have a viable family network. The conference invited participants for a professional exchange of experiences and practices to support young people. Representatives from organizations that offer social services, from educational institutions, local authorities, child and youth welfare organizations and economic stakeholders participated. As a result, the network has expanded. Through ongoing training sessions, professionals in social work and other early childhood development and care are made aware of the special needs of “care leavers.” Personal contact was established with 35 companies and potential employers. To date, 74 “care leavers” have directly benefited from the project’s interventions and assistance.

15 YEARS OF CONCORDIA MOLDOVA

For 15 years CONCORDIA Moldova has been helping children, young people, the elderly and families in the Republic of Moldova through their hard times. On March 26, 2019, CONCORDIA Moldova celebrated its birthday with a festive event in the small town of Tudora. Representatives of the municipality of Tudora and the surrounding communities met at the CONCORDIA Social Center near the Ukrainian border. They are all grateful, not only for the assistance and food that CONCORDIA is providing to those in need there, but also, for the fact that a village community was able to regroup at the center.

A HOUSE TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN

CONCORDIA supports children who have to grow up without parents. Due to the dramatic labor migration, CONCORDIA sees an urgent need for action in the Republic of Moldova. Therefore, the family-like accommodation for children and young people without parental care was opened in Ruseștii Noi, 23 kilometers west of the capital Chișinău, in 2019.



A REASON TO CELEBRATE

In October 2019, CONCORDIA Bulgaria had a very special occasion to celebrate: After a construction period of one and a half years, the second CONCORDIA Social Center in the Orlandovtzi district of Sofia, where only families at risk of poverty live, could be opened. The center offers a wide range of activities for children, young people and families from difficult social backgrounds and conducts family work in a holistic sense. Thanks to the child-friendly, functional and colorful furniture, it was possible to create a cozy place for children! Many thanks to our partners STRABAG, Alu-KönigStahl, Hoval, Wienerberger and IKEA Bulgaria!



PROTECTION IN ACUTE SITUATIONS

There is indeed a high demand on crisis centers for children in acute situations in Bulgaria. With the provision of a professional team and a maximum capacity of 12 places, CONCORDIA set up such a crisis center last year for the short-term care of children who have been victims of violence. . In this acute phase, the employees of the center strive to create a calming environment for the children. They also aim to enable contact with the parents, siblings and friends of these children wherever possible. If a return to the family is not possible the child or young adult will be placed into a socio-educational residential community.



VISIT FROM POPE FRANCIS

May and June 2019 were very exciting months for our children in Bulgaria and Romania: Pope Francis visited the two countries and also met with CONCORDIA children. On this occasion the CONCORDIA children's choir sang and Pope Francis expressed his appreciation and recognition of the children during the meetings and apologized to the Roma people on behalf of the Church and God. He asked forgiveness for "all" of the times in history when they were discriminated against, mistreated or viewed with suspicion. It was a particularly moving moment for everyone.



SOCIAL MEETS BUSINESS

The “Social meets Business” event has created opportunities for companies, social and political actors to meet and connect. Companies are increasingly taking on responsibility for social or ecological issues and this event enables the networking to begin where service can meet need and business stakeholders can share their knowledge with our social workers.. Keynote speakers at the event in Bucharest included Cord Meier-Klodt (Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Romania), Dr. Thomas Birtel (Executive Director of the German CONCORDIA Foundation), Gisela Erler (State Councilor for Civil Society and Civic Participation in the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg) and Corina Murafa (Director of Ashoka Romania). The interest was great, the content exciting and the dialogue will continue!



UNITED WE ARE STRONG

CONCORDIA is only as strong as our supporters. Many thanks go to Support Ulm e.V., who also assisted us with various events and donations in 2019. At the invitation of Support Ulm e.V., Dr. Angela Keim, a German doctor who works for CONCORDIA on a voluntary basis, reported on her assignment at the CONCORDIA Social Center in Bucharest. Her lecture enabled others to share in her experiences and the needs of the homeless. Under the patronage of Christl Schwörer, members of the PERI cycling group and committed members of Support Ulm e.V. rode from Weissenhorn to Dillingen on the Danube – despite intermittent pouring rain. For every kilometer cycled, one Euro was collected on behalf of the CONCORDIA Social Projects in the Republic of Moldova. Support Ulm e.V. donated care beds and new mattresses to CONCORDIA’s social centers in the Republic of Moldova.



PORTRAIT OF THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN

In 2018 and 2019, photographer Susanne Schmidt-Dominé and her husband, Joachim, traveled for CONCORDIA to the poorest country in Europe, the Republic of Moldova. In their photographic portrait, they captured the living conditions of the almost forgotten. On their journey, the couple had many heartbreaking encounters with abandoned and orphaned children, socially disadvantaged families and the elderly, who are now in the care of CONCORDIA.



We thank our partner

ZÜBLIN
TEAMS WORK.



LEARNING- AND FAMILY CENTER LenZ

The CONCORDIA Learning- and Family Center LenZ in Vienna-Leopoldstadt offers free tutoring for children and adolescents from educationally deprived families every afternoon from Monday to Thursday. In addition, there are a variety of activities for children, young people and parents to engage in and this makes LenZ a place of congregation and mutual learning.

In the past year, LenZ has made specific outreach to women and mothers who have refugee status or have been displaced due to poverty. These women play a central role in the integration process and act as role models for their children. Most of them have little education and few or no IT skills which prevents entry into a skilled job market. Strongly anchored, gender-specific role patterns in the technology and IT sector also prevent women in general from working in this industry. LenZ has installed a “Women 4 Women” network and offers a six month basic IT course for women teaching them skills considered as prerequisites for participating in the knowledge and information sector.

Another offer is basic education for mothers who are asylum seekers. They can also access socio-educational support for their children. Many of these women are illiterate, so German is the first language that they learn to read and write. At LenZ, these women are given an opportunity and access to the necessary knowledge that enables them to enter the job market and lead a self-determined life.

“Relaxed, harmonious, cheerful, sometimes concentrated and quiet, sometimes loud, but definitely always lively!

Iona, volunteer at LenZ

ON THE STAGE: READY AND GO

Once a year, the Raiffeisen Forum is filled with CONCORDIA supporters and companions to celebrate the artistic flair of the children and young people under our care. This is an unforgettably lively and joyous event. This year children and young people from Moldova paid us a visit and we enjoyed choral singing, a virtuoso trumpet solo and colourful dance performances. These young people enthralled our audience.

PALM SUNDAY IN ERL

For the fourth year the benefit matinee of the Tyrolean Festival Erl took place in support of CONCORDIA Social Projects. The Tyrolean Festival Orchestra and the Choir Academy performed Gioacchino Rossini's "Petite Messe Solenne" and Ludwig van Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 5." This enabled the audience to not only enjoy a mass, but also one of the most famous piano concerts in a matinee performance. Friedrich Haider, who celebrated grand success at the Festival with "La Sonnambula" in the previous winter season, conducted both works. After a successful concert, our board member P. Markus Inama, SJ, blessed the palm branches. CONCORDIA would like to thank all participating musicians as well as the sponsors – Bank für Tirol and Vorarlberg Aktiengesellschaft, Strabag SE and Tiroler Tageszeitung – for their great support!

PAUSING FOR A MOMENT - TOGETHER

For the seventh time in a row, the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Rudolf Streicher, presented a Christmas matinee concert at Palais Ferstel in Vienna to benefit CONCORDIA. Concert master and principal violinist Maighréad McCrann captivated the audience, including Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen. Antonia Rados delivered a speech that reminded us of the importance of consciously observing the real conditions as a prerequisite for taking appropriate action. Abbot Haidinger bestowed the final blessing for this year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone involved for their commitment and their long-standing loyalty to CONCORDIA!



CHALLENGING TIMES

THE CORONA CRISIS BECOMES A SURVIVAL CRISIS

The Coronavirus pandemic has been keeping the world in suspense since early 2020. The virus hits those on the poverty line particularly hard. They need our support now more than ever. Compared to wealthy Austria, medical care in our project countries is precarious due to inefficient and poorly equipped health systems. The measures to contain the virus forced entire families into isolation. Some slums were entirely sealed off. CONCORDIA employees in the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania are facing major challenges. As if the misery in the ghettos wasn't enough, the pathogens have an environment in which to thrive due to appalling hygiene conditions. There is no running water, no soap, no shower and no washing machine. It is impossible to maintain social distancing when large families live together in a few square meters. It is practically impossible for those affected by poverty to provide themselves with the most necessary things.

In many villages and neighborhoods, CONCORDIA is the only organization that comes to those affected to bring them the necessary food and hygiene items. We are very concerned about the medium-term impacts that the pandemic is causing.

The scarce sources of income, for example through rubbish collection or day labor, have disappeared, leaving thousands of families without any income. In the Republic of Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, we also expect frightening economic impacts in

the medium to long term. After the crisis broke out, many Moldovans living and working abroad were forced to return, and even more families are left without any income. While some help was provided by those Moldovans living abroad, these remittances, which accounted for almost a third of Moldova's GDP, are now almost non-existent. In a country whose social system was already collapsing before the crisis CONCORDIA is required to be there even more!

“ In normal times, in emergencies and in crises, our social workers are always there – with a smile, even under the mask. They aren't staying at home. They know that many vulnerable people are now particularly dependent on them and their help and care.

**Stela Gachevska,
Director of CONCORDIA Bulgaria**



TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST

CONCORDIA Social Projects not only takes over responsibility for children, young people and families in distress, but also for entrusted donations. That is why CONCORDIA Social Projects – as well as the four sister associations in Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Germany – submit to statutory audits.

AUDIT OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CONCORDIA Social Projects Non-Profit Private Foundation submits its annual financial statement to an audit by Burger & Partner/BDO Austria GmbH. The audit for the period of 2019 was positively completed in May 2020 and led to no objections whatsoever concerning proper accounting and financial reporting, as well as the statutorily appropriate usage of the funds.

AUSTRIAN DONATION SEAL OF QUALITY

Since December 4, 2014, CONCORDIA Social Projects Non-Profit Private Foundation has been awarded the Austrian Donation Seal of Quality by the Chamber of Public Accountants and Tax Advisors.



DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Donations to CONCORDIA Social Projects have been tax-deductible according to §4a Z3 and 4EStG since 2009 (registration no. SO 1295).



CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS NON-PROFIT PRIVATE FOUNDATION

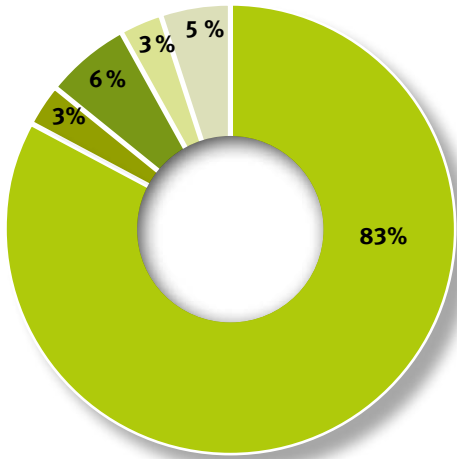
SOURCE OF FUNDS (PROCEEDS)	EUR	in %
I. DONATIONS		
a) Dedicated donations	1,783,439	24.20%
b) Non-dedicated donations	3,067,224	41.62%
II. MEMBERSHIP FEES	0	
III. OPERATING REVENUE		
a) Operating revenue from public funds	0	
b) Other operating revenue	0	
IV. SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR	71,839	0.97%
V. OTHER REVENUE		
a) Asset management	372,295	5.05%
b) Other additional revenue unless otherwise specified in Points I to IV	10,000	0.14%
VI. RELEASE OF ASSETS FOR DONATIONS, RESP., GRANTS NOT YET USED AS DESIGNATED	1,069,129	14.51%
VII. RELEASE OF RESERVES	995,072	13.50%
VIII. ANNUAL LOSSES	0	
TOTAL REVENUE	7,368,998	100%

APPLICATION OF FUNDS (EXPENDITURES)		
I. PAYMENTS FOR STATUTORILY DEFINED PURPOSES	6,046,005	82.05%
II. ADVERTISING FOR DONATIONS	639,550	8.68%
III. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND DONATION ADMINISTRATION	250,806	3.40%
IV. ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN POINTS I TO III	77,287	1.05%
V. APPROPRIATION TO ASSETS FOR DONATIONS, RESP., GRANTS NOT YET USED AS DESIGNATED	355,350	4.82%
VI. APPROPRIATION TO RESERVES	0	
VII. NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,368,998	100%

CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS INTERNATIONAL

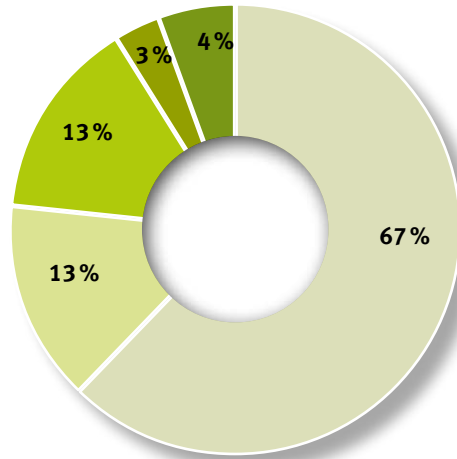
The following diagrams illustrate the source and use of CONCORDIA Social Projects funds in all project countries (Romania, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Germany and Austria).

TYPE OF FUND SOURCE



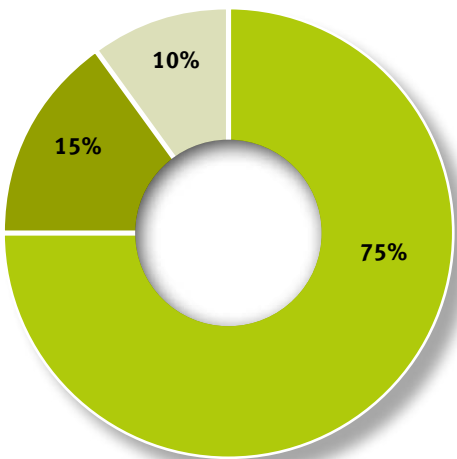
- Donations
- Public Funding
- Cost Reimbursement for Social Services
- Social Business Revenue
- Other Types of Revenue

FUND SOURCE ACCORDING TO COUNTRY



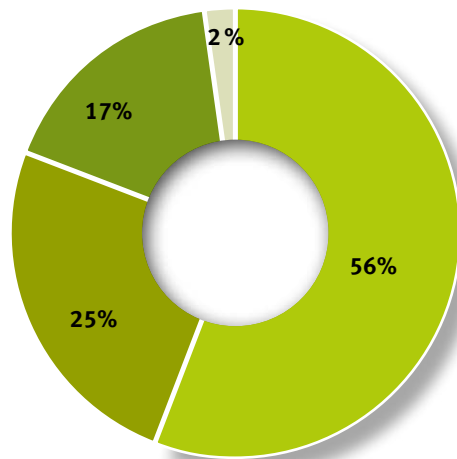
- Austria
- Romania
- Republic of Moldova
- Bulgaria
- Germany

APPLICATION OF FUNDS



- Project Costs
- Donation Advertising and Information Work
- Administrative Costs

APPLICATION OF FUNDS ACCORDING TO PROJECT COUNTRIES



- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Republic of Moldova
- Austria (LenZ)

CONCORDIA's powerful, heartfelt social outreach is made possible through the generous monetary donations we receive. We also receive other donations in the form of infrastructure support and valuable time from our volunteers which enables the running costs of the projects to be kept to a minimum. Many thanks for your important contribution.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ADA Austrian Development Agency
AGRANA und Südzucker
ALUKÖNIGSTAHL GmbH
AMIF – Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds
Ankerbrot Holding GmbH
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BDO Austria GmbH
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GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY – Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid
NPO-Institut (Association)
Österreichische Liga für Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit
SDG Watch Austria

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Country Director

CONCORDIA AUSTRIA and GERMANY

Bernhard Drumel

”

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead





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