



concordia
SOCIAL PROJECTS

30
YEARS



CONCORDIA Social Projects

Impact Report 2020/21

**CONCORDIA Social Projects,
an international independent aid organisation
that supports children, young people, and families
in need in order for them to live a self-determined,
self-reliant life.**

**We go where the need is greatest.
And where others do not go.**

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Dear friends,

The year 2020 was a year full of surprises and challenges for all of us. The world has changed radically due to the COVID pandemic. As a result of the impacts on the global economy many more children, young people and families are barely surviving and living in vulnerable circumstances. The CONCORDIA team have been constantly challenged at all levels to adapt our services to and work through the limitations and restrictions the pandemic has set to continue to provide the best possible support to the children, young people, families, and the elderly we serve.

As the board of an organisation committed to children's rights, we are concerned about the impact of the crisis on them and young people. However, with thirty years of experience we passionately believe that we can build a world where all children and young people can develop and reach their full potential - together.

We have been exploring the concept of change. What must change so that children and young people can leave the margins of society and lead a self-determined life? To understand the relevance and effectiveness of our actions even better we applied the cross-national CONCORDIA impact model (page 12). It describes the short- and long-term changes we work towards every day and provides a stable foundation for the continuous, needs-oriented development of our programme.

We know that we are not alone in our desire for positive change. More than ever, we thank our partners, donors, and supporters for making our work possible. We could not achieve what we do without our dedicated staff and we thank them for putting those in need first. Through tried and tested and new ways of working together, we help marginalised children and young people to have a better future and live a self-determined life.

There are new horizons for CONCORDIA Social Projects with the management of the Transit Centre in Prizren. We can extend our vision for empowering children and young people in Kosovo - the poorest country in Europe next to the Republic of Moldova.

Our wish for the next 30 years is to see our pioneering models, such as the multi-functional centres in the Republic of Moldova, our day centres and Edu-Campus in Romania and our Crisis Centre in Bulgaria, will be adopted by other institutions so that even more children and young people can be helped out of poverty to realise their potential.

This is your invitation to delve into our impact report to learn more about what we have contributed to and achieved in 2020.

In gratitude for your active assistance and trust,



Ulla Konrad

Ulla Konrad
Chairwoman of
the board



Thomas Birtel

Thomas Birtel
Member of the board



P. Markus Inama SJ

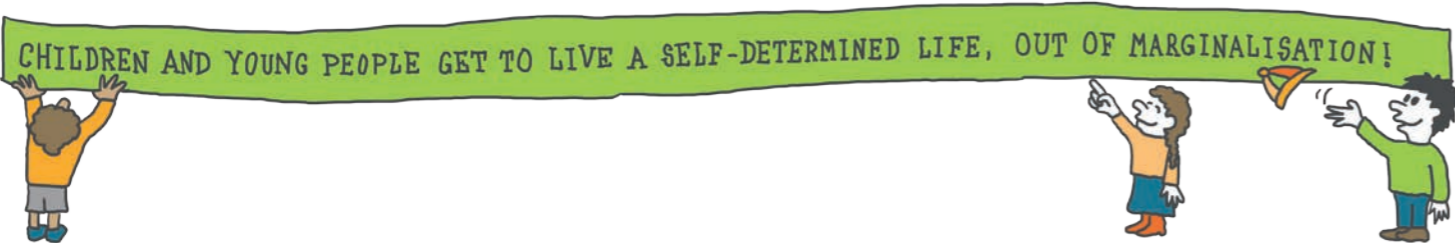
Pater Markus Inama SJ
Member of the board



Bernhard Drumel

Bernhard Drumel
Executive Member of
the board

ONE ORGANISATION - ONE VISION :



AUSTRIA

New project c.a.m.e. - Children's and mothers' empowerment:
 Actions against violence, helping to empower women and girls



KOSOVO

48,6 % of children live in poverty, of which **18,9 %** live in extreme poverty.
60 % of Roma and Ashkali children live in poverty, of which **30 %** live in extreme poverty.

Foundation of CONCORDIA Kosovo:

Management of an educational and social centre in Prizren: CONCORDIA Tranzit Centre.



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Drought and Corona:

Many parents do not know how to feed their children. Pandemic emergency aid: over the winter months 230 food parcels are distributed each month to particularly vulnerable families.



ROMANIA

Opening CONCORDIA primary school: A socially inclusive school in which every child has the right to equal opportunities!
 Opening of the New Day Centre for children and families in Odobești.



BULGARIA

Began "Heal on the Wheel": Mobile Ambulance Services.



Pioneers: CONCORDIA Football Club = 80 young players. A First! FC CONCORDIA organises a football tournament for girls.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The pandemic has made the systemic and infra – structure problems in the isolated slums and rural areas where we work even more visible. Although children are not at high risk of becoming severely ill from the virus, it is unfortunate that they are disproportionately affected by the extended impacts. School closures and contact restrictions affect children's social development, education, and emotional well-being. The response to the pandemic represents a step backwards for the fight against existing inequalities.

HOW HAS CONCORDIA RESPONDED TO THE PANDEMIC?

To comply with the measures and to be there for the people, the year 2020 was marked by continuous adaptation of our programme. Throughout the crises we have attempted to keep our social services open whenever possible. Our mobile footprint increased with mobile teams travelling to the poor neighbourhoods to reach people and provide them with necessities.

EMERGENCY AID REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

2020 was a particularly tough year for the people of the Republic of Moldova. Moldovan farmers had to battle a succession of disastrous weather phenomena, including an extreme winter drought followed by spring frosts and torrential rains that destroyed crops. Due to the pandemic, shops and markets were closed, leaving farmers unable to sell what little produce they had. Government aid to compensate for the shortfall is almost non-existent. Thanks to many supporters, we were able to distribute emergency aid packages with the most important basic foodstuffs. Our soup kitchens served daily hot lunches to children and the aged in the rural areas to lessen the severity of their suffering during winter.

It costs just € 26 per month to feed a family in Moldova per month.

CONCORDIA STORIES

Barely enough to survive



This picture of Eugenio*, youngest son of Mrs. and Mr. Speianu, was taken in summer 2020 during a visit by our social worker. The Speianu family is one of those families in rural Moldova who are lucky enough to have a fixed (albeit small) monthly income. Mr. Speianu has no official employment, but occasionally does odd jobs in the village. Mrs Speianu brings in the only legal source of income for the family as she is employed as a housekeeper in the village kindergarten.

With the first lockdown came the closure of the kindergartens and thus the loss of Ms Speianu's income. There was no state support after this happened and the family was in dire need. In order to provide their children with sufficient food, Mr. and Mrs. Speianu relied on the food parcels from CONCORDIA. The couple has three young children, two of whom regularly come to our day centre in Dubăsarii Vechi, an hour northeast of Chişinău.

Very few families in Moldova have the necessary equipment for online classes. In our social centres, which are spread all over the country, we enable children to participate in digital learning.

*To protect personal rights, all names of persons in care have been changed in this report.



“Our help is needed, especially now as the poorest are the most severely affected and they need fast assistance. This has led to a rise in our mobile outreach so we can continue to provide individual support to children, young people, and families at risk.”

Bernhard Drumel,
Managing Director CONCORDIA Social Projects

THE SVETI KONSTANTIN IN SOFIA/ BULGARIA: THE PLACE TO GO IN THE LOCKDOWN

The lockdown in March 2020 was a big shock for our colleagues in Bulgaria. The decree of the Minister of Health to close the social services to external organisations prompted the question: What can we do next? To answer this the team quickly adapted the programme. The doors of our social centre could at least remain open for food distribution and conversations „between door and door“.

As it is Sveti Konstantin, a transitional home, was the only facility in Sofia open during the lockdown for people in need. A programme was set up to distribute food parcels to families who had lost their livelihoods due to the lockdown. During 2020, 3621 food parcels were delivered to the poorest families and their children in Sofia.

CONCORDIA DAY CENTRES: WHERE LEARNING CAN AND DOES HAPPEN

It is not uncommon for children from less educated backgrounds to lose out on schooling and be victims of violence or suffer mental health problems. Children and young people who already suffer from extreme poverty and discrimination are disproportionately affected by the economic downturn triggered by the pandemic, and some will feel the effects for the rest of their lives. Roma children are particularly vulnerable here. Currently only one in two Roma children has access to early childhood education and care, and in some countries less than 10% of them complete secondary school.

The integration of children with a migrant background has also been made more difficult by the lockdowns. In Austria, children and young people who are already at risk of exclusion are in danger of losing out and being left behind because of there being no school or public interaction.

In our day-care centres, the children receive computers and the necessary help from our educators to be able to participate in digital lessons. They also receive a warm meal and can enjoy meaningful leisure activities. They would not have access to this support without us. The children and young people we care for struggle to keep up in regular classes because many of them have limited literacy skills. This means the help we give them is even more valuable to their development.

CONCORDIA TRANZIT CENTRE IN PRIZREN/KOSOVO



The Republic of Kosovo claimed its independence in 2008 and is one of the poorest countries in Europe. Since the end of the conflict in 1999, Kosovo has been busy building its infrastructure while creating new institutions and a new legal and political framework. Kosovo is an incredibly young state both historically and demographically. The average age of the 1.9 million Kosovars is 30.5 years. Half of this demographic are unemployed. Poverty, poor quality of care and education, child labour, violence against children, child marriage, stigmatisation and discrimination, domestic violence, persistent gender inequalities and migration are the major challenges facing Kosovo.

PLACE OF LEARNING, PLACE OF ENCOUNTER, PLACE OF REFUGE

By taking over the management of the educational and social centre Tranzit Centre in Prizren, CONCORDIA is now also committed to the realisation of children's rights in Kosovo.

According to the UNICEF office in Prishtina, every fifth child in Kosovo lives in poverty. More than 60 % of Roma and Ashkali children live in poverty, and over 30 % in extreme poverty.

An hour's drive from the capital Pristina, near the Albanian border, lies the small Kosovar town of Prizren. In the impoverished neighbourhood of Tranzit, Roma families of the Ashkali population group live with no access to even the simplest of things.

Adjacent to this neighbourhood is Loyola High School. In 2016, under the direction of the two Jesuits Moritz Kuhlmann SJ and Axel Bödefeld SJ, students at the grammar school began to establish contacts with the families in the neighbourhood and offered an extra mural activity programme for the children in the neighbourhood. This built the bridge that connected the pupils of the Loyola-Gymnasium and for the families in Tranzit. The children who benefited from the first programme have grown into adults who actively participate in the programme. The activity programme (which initially had to take place exclusively outdoors) became an education



centre with regular opening hours, learning support and a music school with its own children's orchestra.

The young staff members come from the community. They have access to scholarships that enable them to catch up on their education in the future, while they continue to work at the Tranzit Centre. For many children, the centre is the only social place of connection outside their family. It is a place of community encounters and intercultural exchanges. Inter-religious meetings take place in the mornings. Tolerance and openness are practised. About 60 children come there every day to learn, to play, to make music and to get a warm meal.

It should not be forgotten that the children at the Tranzit come from extremely poor backgrounds. The Tranzit Centre makes a big difference to them and brings opportunities that are otherwise denied to them.

The Tranzit Centre will be renovated to match the CONCORDIA standards. There are close connections with the Loyola Grammar School. In the future, there will be local and international volunteers who continue to make an important contribution to the success of this project and have done since its inception.



“The vision for CONCORDIA Tranzit is to transform aid of a purely educational nature into aid at the whole social level.

Mirela Lavric,
National Director CONCORDIA Kosovo

PROGRAMME AND IMPACT

The future of each and every child is close to our hearts! With our programme and impact model, we pursue a holistic approach that enables children and young people to lead self-determined lives. In doing so, we are guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



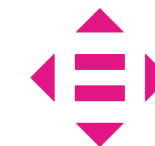
4 QUALITY EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET TO LIVE A SELF-DETERMINED LIFE, OUT OF MARGINALISATION!

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A HIGHER SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING (SDG 1 AND SDG 2)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MORE SUPPORTIVE NETWORKS AND RELATIONSHIPS (SDG 1 AND SDG 10)

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SUFFICIENT INCOME AND RESOURCES (SDG 4 AND SDG 8)

GREATER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INCLUSION (SDG 10)



OUR IMPACT MODEL

We work in Central and Eastern Europe where there are large numbers of children and young people at risk of extreme poverty and suffering from exclusion, discrimination and a lack of resources. Kosovo and the Republic of Moldova are the countries with the lowest levels of social and economic development in Europe and many of the children and young people living there are particularly vulnerable as a result.

Our cross-national CONCORDIA impact model illustrates the short- and long-term goals we are pursuing every day at the individual, family, community, and social levels in all the countries in which we operate.

As a conceptual framework, our impact model provides a holistic perspective about the individual interventions of our programme which contribute to achieving our vision for helping children and young people in need.

OUR VISION:
Children and young people can lead a self-determined life out of marginalisation.

Our programme is divided into five different segments. Every single one contributes to positive change:

- Child care
- Community based intervention
- Education and professional training
- Employment and social business
- Empowerment

EVALUATION OF OUR KEY INTERVENTIONS



Monitoring and evaluation of our projects ensures that progress is defined, measured and that the results inform the design of future activities and processes.



Research and evidence-based advocacy activities work with empirical evidence to advocate for the rights of all children and young people.



CHILDCARE

Our childcare programmes ensure that all children and young people have their basic needs met and have quality care in a protective family environment. Positive parenting and a safe environment increase the chances of having supportive and reliable relationships and the ability to respond to life changes in the future. Ultimately this increased emotional resilience leads to greater social and emotional well-being.

At the systemic level, we work with families (biological and foster), the private and public childcare services, and local and national authorities. We provide support to childcare services and to foster carers.

In our care programmes we focus on the care of children in foster families and small family-like groups. Both children and foster parents are supported by a multidisciplinary team of psychologists, teachers, and social workers. Whenever possible (and when it

is in the best interest of the child), we actively support the reintegration of children into their biological families if they were separated by circumstance.

Children and young people who have spent part of their lives in one of our residential groups or foster families continue to receive our support after they leave our care in order to further develop their skills for independent living.

LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

THE CONCORDIA Crisis Centre for children and young people in Sofia

The project offers protection and professional support for children who have experienced various forms of violence in or outside the family. Last year we were able to take care of 26 children - 14 boys and 12 girls who had been victims of violence. At the centre, the work with the children is complex. The focus is on psychological care, but alongside this nurture there is educational support, participation in art, cultural and sports activities. It is important for us to find the best and safest solutions and interventions for each individual child, even after they leave the centre.

The CONCORDIA Crisis Centre is the only facility of its kind in Sofia.

In 2020, CONCORDIA was home to and supported 358 children and 501 young people. 40 children were reintegrated into their families of origin.

CONCORDIA STORIES



CHILDREN NEED IDENTITY AND SUPPORT

Nora (16) has been living in the CONCORDIA transitional home in Sofia. She is one of many young people who need our support as they strive to become more independent.

Even as a small child, Nora had to cope with many losses and learn to be strong. Her parents gave her up for adoption but within her adoptive family she did not find the support a child so urgently needs. When her adoptive father passed away, her adoptive mother handed her over to the child protection agency in Sofia.

Again, she was left alone. The social workers of the Child Protection Office tried to find a longer-term home for Nora but the restrictions because of the pandemic made this extremely difficult.

„I stood in the office all day without knowing what was going to happen to me“, Nora said to our psychologist.

Children like Nora must deal with drastic fractures in trust and a sense of rejection in their young lives, which takes a lifetime to process.

We are glad that in our crisis centre we can support children and adolescents like Nora during this particularly difficult transitional period.

After no suitable adoptive parents could be found for Nora, our crisis centre became her new home for the first three months. She was very unhappy and

sad at first. Little by little our team was able to get to know Nora better, reassure and encourage her.

„If I could choose, I would like to stay with you at CONCORDIA“, she said. These are her words spoken with great conviction.

In the meantime, Nora lives in our new transitional home. She has her own room, and enough space to pursue her favourite pastime: painting. She attends school and is supported by us on her way to an independent life in the best possible way.



COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTION



WE ARE STRONG - TOGETHER

In our community-based interventions we combine the work of the mobile teams who visit and support families in their own homes with activities in community centres.

We work mainly in marginalised communities, mostly in rural areas or in areas with a high proportion of Roma families.

Children and young people should grow up in an environment where they are nurtured by their families and the community around them. This enables them to feel accepted and encourages them to actively participate in society.

Where various services are already available at community level we activate these resources and link them to networks of support for children and their families. Where these do not (yet) exist, we work with local groups and agencies to develop community-based services to support the most vulnerable children, young people, and their families. A key focus of our community work is the exchange and transfer of knowledge.

On the one hand, affected families receive information about support services from our social workers, on the other, local decision-makers are involved and informed about the situation and needs of vulnerable community members.

Almost 10,000 children, young people and families benefit every year from our community-based support in Austria, Bulgaria, Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova, and Romania.

A high level of exchange and collaborative action within the community ensures more long-term and socially sustainable solutions.

CONCORDIA MULTIFUNCTIONAL CENTRES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: GENERATIONS TOGETHER

In the Republic of Moldova, our multi-functional centres and soup kitchens also have a community-building function. They are usually the only social space in the villages, and in winter they are the only place where people can warm up. Here, the young and old learn from each other.

According to UNICEF, 35,000 Moldovan children grow up without parents by their side. Often it is the grandparents who take care of the children while the parents work abroad. This is not always practical, and they need help to cope with this responsibility.

BETTER DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

More than 60% of Moldovans consume polluted drinking water, either because there is no municipal water provision, or the existing pipelines are polluted.

This is precisely the problem that CONCORDIA is tackling with its new „WASH“ project. In several social institutions in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova there is a lack of access to clean drinking water. This has particular impacts on the elderly and children.

CONCORDIA aims to support the WASH project to achieve its aims and connect them to further support networks.

Gefördert aus Mitteln der



CONCORDIA MOBILE TEAMS

Sofia/Bulgaria: Our mobile team has regular outreach in the isolated and segregated neighbourhoods, providing health and psycho-social support, basic care for mothers with small children as well as counselling and support for institutional staff.

Empowering expectant mothers

About 50 pregnant women who took part in the programme "Healthy Mothers = Healthy Babies" took part in education and learning covering topics

like healthy nutrition, care of new-borns and basic gynaecology.

"Heal on the Wheel" - Mobile Ambulance Services

We acquired a medical vehicle equipped with a couch, blood pressure monitor, blood glucose meter, thermometer and important medication enabling the mobile team to extend their services in health counselling.

Basic medical examinations can also be done with the necessary referrals being made for people who need further treatment.





EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION NEEDS SOCIAL ANCHORING

We are committed to ensuring that all children and young people can go to school every day, receive all necessary learning materials, clothing, and a hot meal. Being encouraged to learn at home and being supported during homework is the best foundation for a successful school career. We therefore start not only with the children themselves, but in line with our holistic approach, include the parents or the wider family. We also work with teachers, partner organisations and decision-makers to ensure that the children and young people have a respect-

ful and encouraging environment while they are at school. Educational opportunities give socially disadvantaged children and young people the ability to perceive opportunities that were hidden before. Children and young people from marginalised communities need an education system that is sensitive and aware of their specific social needs. We create bridges of cooperation between the education system and the social service system and provide examples of tailor-made education and vocational training pathways for children and youth from disadvantaged families and communities who have missed years of formal education.

“Through our interventions and support young people discover what they want to do next in life. There are young people who make the most of the experiences we offer and who come back long after their active participation in the programme to thank us for what they have learned.

Ramona Vasiloae Năstăsache,
Director CONCORDIA Vocational School

According to Eurostat, almost every fourth person in Romania lives in their own home without a toilet. The at-risk-of-poverty rate for children aged 0-17 in families where the parents attended lower secondary education, or less, is 73.8%.

LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT The CONCORDIA Edu-Campus

In Ploiești/Romania there is an innovative and unique example of inclusive education for children (6-11 years) and youth (14-18 years).

The primary schools (in operation since autumn 2020) on the campus offers children from nearby neighbourhoods (where many families suffer from poverty and discrimination) a modern, stimulating and highly creative learning environment.

With our inclusive school, we want to showcase a model how children from disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged backgrounds can learn, together. It is based on the belief that all children, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have an equal right to quality education.

The promotion of children's creativity through music and art lessons is emphasised.

Afternoon care is an essential part of school life. Not least because children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds often do not receive support

at home. In addition, the children receive a warm meal at lunchtime, which is prepared daily by our volunteers and apprentices.

Case management; a model that has already been successfully implemented at the CONCORDIA vocational school, is an innovative method for Romania. It has a multidisciplinary team composed of all school staff who interact with each child. Together with parents' input, the team regularly analyses each child's development and plans the best individual development path for them based on their talents and needs. To adapt teaching to the class dynamics and provide the necessary individual support, two teachers are assigned to each class.

THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL supports young people who have grown up in care. The educational model combines theoretical subjects with vocational training and qualification in different professions. Both groups of students are supported by a multi-professional team of teachers, psychologists and social workers.

39 apprentices completed their training in 2020.

CONCORDIA STORIES

THE RIGHT PERSON IN THE RIGHT PLACE

It is rare to have memories from the age of two. But Ionuț remembers being at home with his mother. He was wearing a T-shirt and had a piece of polenta in his hand when the social workers from the Child Protection Agency came to pick him up. His mother had no clothes for him, so she dressed him in the skirt of one of his sisters. This is how Ionuț remembers leaving home to enter a new world: that of institutionalised childhood.

Up to the age of 7, he was beaten almost every day in the state children's home. Those childhood years were traumatic. It became easier when Ionuț started going to school and the management of the home changed. When he was 18, he left the and moved in with his girlfriend, hoping to start an independent life with her. Ionuț did not know until later that it was not possible for a young person who has lived in an institutional home all his life to start a new life without any support.

Integration assistance for young people leaving care is not offered by state-run homes. The emotional instability of young people who have grown up like Ionuț is exceedingly high. It is no surprise that when Ionuț fell in love and was betrayed, he faced his first emotional obstacle. He "fell" and could not get up on his own.

He got into a bad environment, lost his job, and became a drug addict. He reached rock bottom when he was lying in the street and felt he could no longer move his legs. The paramedics, who intervened to help him, looked at him with pity and called him a „junkie“. This triggered something in his drug-shadowed head.

After he recovered, he went to the director of the institution, where he had lived for 16 years, and asked him to refer him to CONCORDIA.

In 2019, at the age of 20, he was admitted to the vocational school at the edu-campus. He began training to become a waiter and barista, was given a place to live in one of the houses on the campus and psychological support to get through the difficult time.

His continued involvement in the school brought him a job offer as an assistant coach. Ionuț recalls his first day as a coach. His emotions were at top pitch. It was time to make the transition from the position of student to employee, responsible for training young people who had suffered just like he had. It took him a whole year to be sure that he was doing the right thing, that he could guide others and show them that there is a way to a new life.

He knows what his students are going through: the trauma of abandonment, the despair, the disappointment, the fear of failure, the sadness. All this remains and yet he knows, and he feels that he can help his students.

It is a good feeling to know that I am the right person in the right place.

Ionuț Filisan, former apprentice, now a trainer himself at the Vocational School

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Young people who come from disadvantaged families and communities often need additional support such as job coaching or mentoring to develop the necessary skills for the labour market. Often at risk of economic exploitation, we support young people to learn a viable profession and to use their talents and skills to further their careers. Through advocacy and partnerships with the business sector, we help to create a supportive system for young people, with access to sheltered employment, sometimes in the form of a social enterprise. We raise awareness among employers about the special needs of young people from marginalised communities, and the importance of creating incentives that encourage these young people to enter the job market.

Lighthouse Project

PLOIEȘTI/ ROMANIA:
THE CONCORDIA BAKERY

is a social business that is known for its wholemeal bread and its delicious cakes, which are distributed daily to businesses and individual households. It is equally well known as a sheltered workplace where young people not only learn how to bake bread, but also how to successfully work together in teams, and become self-reliant.

An impact assessment in 2018 found that 90 % of the young people who started their training there went on to other jobs as bakers or related jobs within the catering industry.

At the Bread&Breakfast hostel in Bucharest and in the bakery we average eight jobs and two internships per year.

SOFIA/BULGARIA:
THE CONCORDIA HAIR SALON

Despite the shutdown the number of customers and the turnover in the candle and pottery workshop enabled us to continue our work with young people at risk. There were 13 apprentices, three of them were hired with an employment contract.

A highlight was the renting of a shop, where the activities are diversified - e.g., creative workshops for children and their parents.

Our social businesses are success stories even after such a hard year. The teams working on the models of our businesses have had to constantly adapt and adjust. They found new ways of marketing and to make customers more aware of the social aspect of our shops.

The only shop that we had to close permanently was our coffee house in Bucharest.



EMPOWERMENT



Living with marginalisation can lead to a loss of hope and vision for a better future. CONCORDIA works with children and young people directly, but also with their parents, their teachers, and decision-makers in governance. They are motivated and supported in continuing their education and vocational training and to actively be involved as members of society.

We want to empower children and young people to be well-informed citizens and agents of change. We inform them of their rights and who they can turn to for support.

We encourage them to network with their peers and create networks of support where they have the opportunity to voice their needs and opinions. Ultimately, we encourage them to use their own networks to engage with decision makers and to advocate for the protection and respect for their rights. Reliable sources of information must be available to all children and young people, in a language they understand and through sources they have access to.

Our work on empowerment is often supported by institutional partnerships, such as the European Commission in Romania and Bulgaria, or the Austrian Development Agency in the Republic of Moldova.

A Moldovan UNICEF study from the 2019 showed that younger people trust that they will have a better future abroad instead of staying in the Republic of Moldova. For young people, out of care, it is more difficult to find a safe place to live, to find a decent job and maintain positive relationships than for their peers who live with their families. We support the development of a network of young „care leavers“ in the Republic of Moldova. This encourages them to network, meet, exchange ideas, and receive adequate support as they navigate their way to a self-determined life.

YOUTH EXCHANGE AMONG „CARE LEAVERS“: GOOD TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Within the framework of the Wings4Youth project, „care leavers“ in Romania and Bulgaria are equipped with important information and skills that are important as they transition from assisted living to being independent. At the same time, the Romanian and Bulgarian care system is strengthened, by providing care professionals with tailor-made training and evidence-based, proven models to support care leavers.



CITY VISIT TO PREDEAL

Nineteen young people from Romania and Bulgaria took part in the exchange of experiences in the Romanian city of Predeal in 2020 as part of the Wings4Youth project. They learned new things from each other and worked in teams on selected projects. This created space and opportunity for them to express their opinions, make decisions, interact, and connect.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The projects „Women go Digital“, „c.a.m.e.“ and „Women4Women“ of the CONCORDIA LenZ in Vienna are specifically aimed at disadvantaged, migrant women, and mothers. They play a central role in the integration process, are role models for their children, and mostly have little or no IT skills. We believe it is time to change that.

Wings4Youth –

This online conference saw over 60 representatives of the Social Welfare Agency, social work experts, HR and CSR experts discuss the topic: „The metamorphosis of young people in social institutions - do institutions and companies have a place in this process?“ They also examined how to develop the skills that every young person needs to become independent. The young people explored nearby places together, such as the town of Braşov, the adventure park and the zoo, where they had to complete different tasks.



CONCORDIA ACADEMIA



BETTER PROFESSIONALS - BETTER SOCIAL WORK

CONCORDIA Academia is our systemic intervention for the continued upskilling of professionals in the social, health and education sectors.

Quality is particularly important to us. Therefore, we have designed support programmes for the training and supervision of foster parents and caregivers. The training product „Practitioners in social field“ has been specifically developed for two groups: People working with care leavers - young people who have to leave care after reaching the age of 18 and those working with people with mental health problems, anxiety, and depression.

In 2020, the Academia course offer in Romania and the Republic of Moldova focused on online training and webinars. In order to deliver all the activities envisaged, the methodology and content for all our trainings were developed for the online environment.

The Academia course offer online:
www.concordia-academia.ro

Academia: 2020 in figures

130 (95 online) training days

237 different organisations in Romania and the Republic of Moldova who took advantage of our courses

250 professionals benefited from coaching

In Bulgaria, we are pleased with the accreditation as a training provider, which is the basis for the future development of the CONCORDIA Academia there.



VOLUNTARY SERVICE

“ I have seen pictures from the slums, I have heard about them; many of the children I work with used to live in the neighbourhoods. But none of that comes close to being there myself. Not even close to seeing how people actually live in the settlements.

Noah Leidinger, after accompanying our mobile team to one of the slums.

In 2020, Noah Leidinger from Upper Austria was our only international volunteer to start his service in the midst of the pandemic at the CONCORDIA Crisis Centre in Sofia/Bulgaria. In the past months, he has become an important part of the CONCORDIA team with his tireless commitment. He has continuously reported to us in the Vienna office about his impressions. We sincerely thank Noah Leidinger for his commitment!

NOAH LEIDINGER ABOUT THE CRISIS CENTRE:

The children in the CONCORDIA Crisis Centre in Sofia usually stay for only a few months, until they can return to their families (in the best case) or another long-term solution has been found. Of course, this is not easy for the children. They suffer uncertainty about their own future and face daily departures of their beloved flatmates.

Yet despite these difficulties, the crisis centre is for me a fascinating showcase of successful integration. All the children who have moved into the centre since my arrival have been welcomed by the others with open arms. And this despite the fact that a new child always means having to share the toys, attention of the carers and often also one's own room.

Probably the integration works so well because the children CONCORDIA takes care of had to go through the experience of settling into a foreign environment far away from their own family. In any case, we can all learn a thing or two from the open heartedness of these kids.

INTERESTED IN A TRAINEESHIP AT CONCORDIA?

For more information on how you can get involved with us, please visit www.concordiasocialprojects.org.

CONCORDIA is part of the WeltWegWeiser network, the service point of Jugend Eine Welt for foreign assignments.

581 employees, of which 96 were local volunteers, were in the CONCORDIA countries.

COMPANIES CREATE IMPACT

PROUD PARTNER CLUB



Permanent contributions enable us to plan and implement projects. Business enterprises too are aware of their social responsibility and increasingly want to contribute to a fairer world. As a CONCORDIA Proud Partner, you assist us to maintain aid programmes in the poorest countries and expand them and know your money is well spent.



Stephan Zöchling (Managing Director of REMUS) and Ulla Konrad (Chairman of the Board of CONCORDIA Social Projects)

WE THANK OUR PROUD PARTNER COMPANIES:



AND OUR LONG-STANDING SPONSORS AND COMPANIONS:



IMPACT ANGELS



Support as an Impact Angel is based on the CONCORDIA impact model. In our daily CONCORDIA work, we focus on our five different content-related paths, with one goal in mind: To enable a self-determined life for children and young people!

As Impact Angels, our cooperation partners choose a specific project or a concrete thematic strand. They choose the topic that is particularly relevant to their interest and in which they can have meaningful involvement and make a real difference!



For further information please contact Elke Mühlbachler at T +43 681 10 58 67 57 or elke.muehlbachler@concordia.or.at

SUPPORT WHERE IT MATTERS

We have had tremendous support over the past year. All financial contributions – both large and small – are gratefully received and put to good use. We also receive the valuable gift of time from volunteers who share their expertise and advice. All of you have helped us realise our mission. Every single contribution secures our work.

A COMPANION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COUNT ON FOR MANY YEARS

The Klosterneuburg Monastery has been an important sponsor of CONCORDIA's social projects for more than 20 years. This is largely due personal commitment of the monk, Andreas Gahleitner. In the interview, he talks about personal CONCORDIA moments.

What is your personal connection to CONCORDIA?

I was lucky enough to work for CONCORDIA Romania in 2000. An unforgettable moment for me was when my wife and I, together with four CONCORDIA employees, had to relocate twelve babies from a state -run children's home near Ploiești to a CONCORDIA care facility. The six of us went there in a CONCORDIA VW bus. Hundreds of children were lying next to each other in a hall, completely emotionless.

We were taken through the process and told which ones we could take with us. Each of us got two children in their arms and so we went back to the "city of children" in Ploiești.

After half a year, to see what has become of these children, how the attention, love and the care has brought peace and security into the lives of these children...that was very touching for me. I cannot get this moment out of my head. It was nice to see what CONCORDIA was able to do here.

How and why does the Monastery Klosterneuburg support CONCORDIA social projects?

We offer financial support to CONCORDIA, but there are of course many more points of contact. One of them is that two former CONCORDIA children are now working at the monastery in the kitchen and in the garden. And we have a former youth who became a priest with us. If you look at it that way the connection between CONCORDIA and the Klosterneuburg Monastery is close and has grown beautifully and well over two decades. Once a year there is a benefit concert in the Abbey Church, which we organise together with and for the benefit of



CONCORDIA as well as the Advent Run co-organised by the Klosterneuburger Road Runners, which is co-organised by the Klosterneuburger Road Runners. Up to one thousand runners participate for the benefit of street children in Romania. The foundation itself is a non-profit organisation. The business enterprises finance the pastoral care and the cultural programme. A third and very central point is the social aspect. Twenty years ago, the monastery decided to support those who are most in need of this help and who usually find themselves in this situation through no fault of their own. And these are usually children. In our social statute we help children first and this is also the reason for the remarkably close cooperation with CONCORDIA.

CONCORDIA celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2021. Do you have a 30-year message for the organisation?

I wish CONCORDIA the courage, the energy, and the dignity of the people it cares for. How they overcome and what they make of their lives, starting from extraordinarily little is a lesson to us all. If CONCORDIA is like this, CONCORDIA will also achieve a lot.



LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

“Every now and then it is good to reflect on the fertile ground on which we stand. From this also comes the strength to create an environment for others to live in dignity.

Father Markus Inama SJ

We sincerely thank all our legacy patrons. Their donations, ensure that children and young people have a good and secure future and their contribution lives on in the hearts of our children. As a lasting thank you, we will plant a fruit tree for each donor in anyone of our projects. The roots of your tree symbolise the foundations you give to CONCORDIA children. The fruit that will come represents the hope your donation gives. At the same time, each, personal tree keeps your memory alive.

Give children and young people a blossoming future!

For more information and the information brochure, please contact Jeannine Schiller at T +43 1 212 81 49-27 or jeannine.schiller@concordia.or.at

„I support CONCORDIA social projects because...

...all children have the right to education and a fair livelihood“. Annemarie R.

...my family and I are doing so well, and we have been very lucky so far, I want to share“. Michaela Z.

...children and young people are particularly worthy of protection and support. Young people are the future“. Katrin G.

...children suffer from poverty through no fault of their own and cannot do anything about it themselves“. Richard G.

...I am grateful that there is an aid organisation in which I can have complete trust“. Almuth G.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

“We cannot be indifferent whether a child in Central or Eastern Europe continues to have a roof over its head, continues to have a warm meal, and access to education and training - or not.”

Alexander Van der Bellen,
Federal President of the Republic of Austria

LIVESTREAMING THE CONCORDIA BENEFIT EVENT MATINÉE

Last year, almost all conferences, meetings and trainings were held digitally. Some events had to be cancelled altogether or postponed indefinitely.

We are pleased that we were able to make it possible to at least have a virtual get-together with our supporters in a festive setting with our Advent Matinée on 13 December 2020.

Many thanks to Rubén Dubrovsky & the Bach Consort Vienna, to Peter & Kaspar Simonischek, Provincial Father Bernhard Bürgler SJ and to all other contributors as well as to the numerous participants. This year, Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen blessed us with his patronage of our matinée and sent us a touching video message, which can be heard at: www.concordia.or.at/matinee

RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMITMENT

Last year, our commitment to child protection and improving the living conditions of disadvantaged children, youth and families was recognised with two prestigious awards. Country Director of CONCORDIA Romania, Elena Matache, and Chairperson of CONCORDIA Austria, Ulla Konrad, received

an award at the Romanian Embassy in Vienna for their perseverance in the fight against poverty in Romania. For her active participation in the National Child Protection Council in Bulgaria and CONCORDIA Bulgaria's programme, Stela Gachevska, Country Director CONCORDIA Bulgaria, was honoured with an award from the Bulgarian State Agency for Child Protection. We are very happy about the recognition of the impact of our work and will continue with the same commitment and ambition!

DIGITAL PRESS TRIP TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Press trips give an organisation like CONCORDIA vital media attention to amplify recognition for its work for people in need. At the same time, journalists get the chance to hear authentic life stories and to deal directly with social issues and problems on the ground. CONCORDIA is committed to supporting journalists in their reporting wherever possible, so that the stories of people and countries that are usually on the margins can take centre stage. This year, for the first time, we provided this insight with a digital press trip, a digital local inspection of the Republic of Moldova, which, in addition to the pandemic, is struggling with the consequences of the last drought.

Although this format is no substitute for an encounter on the ground, it was an exciting exchange between Austrian journalists, our Moldovan colleagues and individual families supported by CONCORDIA. We thank all participants for their important reporting on the precarious situation in the Republic of Moldova.

TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST

CONCORDIA Social Projects not only takes responsibility for children, young people and families in need, but also for the donations entrusted to it.

AUSTRIAN SEAL OF APPROVAL FOR DONATIONS

Since 4.12.2014, CONCORDIA Social Projects Charitable Private Foundation has been awarded the annually the Austrian Chamber of Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisors with the Austrian Seal of awarded.



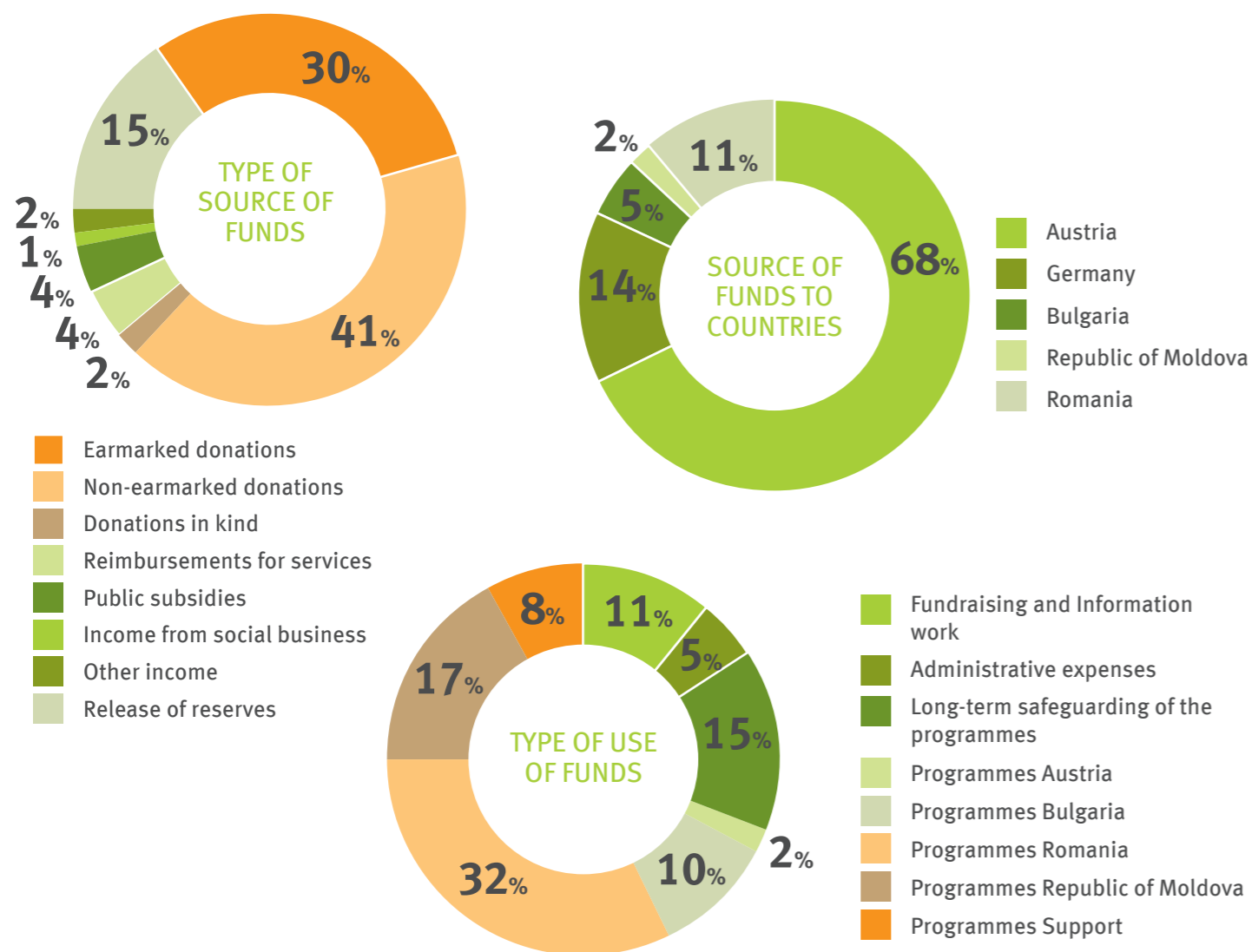
DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Since 2009, donations to CONCORDIA Sozialprojekte Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung have been tax-deductible according to §4a Z3 and 4EStG (registration number SO 1295).



SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The following diagrams show the source and application of funds (total volume EUR 11.4 million) of the CONCORDIA social projects in all country organisations* (Romania, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Germany, and Austria) for the year 2020 in an internally consolidated form. We use part of our reserves for the long-term safeguarding of our programmes through the acquisition of new supporters in Austria, Germany and Switzerland in order to achieve the greatest possible impact in the future.



*CONCORDIA has only been active in Kosovo and Switzerland since the beginning of 2021, so the two countries are not included here.

The broad spectrum of assistance provided by CONCORDIA Social Projects is made up of various services that complement each other. Many people support more than one service, seeing the integrated whole and need for support at all levels. In 2020, CONCORDIA social projects reached a total of 9,053 people: 2,903 people in Romania, 3,755 in the Republic of Moldova, 2,005 in Bulgaria and 390 in Austria.

BULGARIA			RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN	ADULT CARE PROGRAMMES	COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES	EDUCATION PROGRAMMES	SOCIAL BUSINESS PROGRAMMES
PROJECT NAME	PLACE	START DATE					
Social centre Sveti Konstantin							
Supervised youth residential group Ropotamo	Sofia	2008	8				
Center for temporary accommodation Zdravei	Sofia	2008		52	196		
Crisis Center for Children	Sofia	2019	26				
Family-like care house Bozhurishte	Bozhurishte	2014	9				
Supervised youth residential group Timok	Sofia	2014		7			
Social- and day care center Olandovtzi							
Day care center Posoka	Sofia	2018				50	
Football Club	Sofia	2015			118		
Mobile Social Work	Sofia	2008			1289		
Day care center Zaharna fabrika	Sofia	2017			249		
Therapeutic art workshop	Sofia	2018			8		
CONCORDIA Candle workshop	Sofia	2015					8
CONCORDIA Hairdresser	Sofia	2010					2
			43	59	1.860	50	10

ROMANIA

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	START DATE	RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN				
			ADULT CARE PROGRAMMES	COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES	EDUCATION PROGRAMMES	SOCIAL BUSINESS PROGRAMMES	
Day care center Casa Alexandra	Ploiești	2015			69	43	
Family-like care house Casa Austria	Ploiești	2000	13		52		
Day care centre Casa Cristina	Ploiești	2013			116	53	
Family-like care house Casa Eva	Ploiești	2005	34				
Supervised residential group Casa Hannes	București	2015		7			
Social apartments Casa Iuda	București	2009		33			
CONCORDIA Vocational school	Ploiești	2010				183	
Family-like care house Casa Ursula	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2017	6		6		
Family-like care house Casa Caroline	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2018	8		7		
Family-like care house Casa Elisabeth	Ariceștii Rahtivani	2019	8		6		
Job Coaching	București/ Ploiești	2013			586		
Family-like care house Casa Abraham	Ploiești	2009		83			
Supervised youth residential group Sf. Paul	București	1999		65			
Mobile Social Work	Ploiești	2013			963		
Mobile Social Work	Odobesti	2020			78		
CONCORDIA Agriculture	Ploiești	2010					2
CONCORDIA Bakery	Ploiești	2010					3
CONCORDIA "Bread & Breakfast"	București	2017					5
Family-like care house "The Children's town"	Ploiești	2001	14				
Kindergarten Mimi	Ploiești	2015				66	
Emergency shelter Sf. Lazar	București	2002		34	21		
CONCORDIA Academia	București	2017					798
Scoala Primara CONCORDIA	Ploiești	2020					19
			83	222	1.904	1.162	10

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	START DATE	RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN				
			ADULT CARE PROGRAMMES	COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES	EDUCATION PROGRAMMES	SOCIAL BUSINESS PROGRAMMES	
Social centre Zâmbete Creative	Antonești	2018			74	24	
Family-like care house Casa Norocului	Basarabeasca	2015	13				
Social centre Beștemac	Beștemac	2018			47		
Soup kitchen Casa Bunicilor	Brăviceni	2018			38	4	
Family-like care house Casa Bunătății	Cahul	2016	5				
Soup kitchen Casa Așteptărilor	Carahasani	2018			42		
Family-like residential group Casa Concordia	Chișinău	2004	17		5		
Family-like care house Casa Atașamentului	Căușeni	2015	6				
Social centre Binecuvântarea	Cazangic	2018			107	29	
Soup kitchen Încredere	Chetrosu	2018			77	20	
Family-like care house Casa Viitorului	Chișinău	2018	8				
Family-like care house Casa Înțelepciunii	Cimișlia	2015	16				
Family-like care house Casa Înțelegerii	Cimișlia	2015	9				
Social centre Renaștere	Ciuciuleni	2018			82	15	
Family-like care house Casa Încrăderii	Cojușna	2018	12				
Social centre Solidaritate	Congaz	2008		15	82	25	
Social centre Baștina	Cosăuți	2018	8	5	22	22	
Soup kitchen Alinare	Coșenița	2018			56	12	
Family-like care house Casa Fericirii	Coșnița	2015	12				
Family-like care house Casa Curajului	Criuleni	2015	13				
Family-like care house Casa Creativității	Criuleni	2015	11				
Family-like residential group Casa Prieteniei	Doroțcaia	2015	11				
Social centre Călăuza	Doroțcaia	2018			63	14	
Family-like care house Casa Speranței	Drochia	2018	12				
Family-like care house Casa Empatiei	Drochia	2018	5				
Family-like care house Casa Egalității	Drochia	2018	4				
Social centre Eternitate	Dubăsarii Vechi	2008		14	98	31	
Social centre Căldura sufletească	Ghetlova	2018			99	27	
Soup kitchen Lumină	Gura Galbenei	2018			54	5	

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN
ADULT CARE PROGRAMMES
COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
SOCIAL BUSINESS PROGRAMMES

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	START DATE					
Soup kitchen Caritate	Holercani	2018	8		65	9	
Supervised residential group Casa Ignatius	Chişinău	2017		25			
Social center Demnitate	Lăpuşna	2019		14	51		
Soup kitchen Nadejda	Mărculeşti	2018			65		
Soup kitchen Înţelegerii	Maximeni	2018			46	1	
Soup kitchen Acord	Mîndreşti	2018			55	2	
Soup kitchen Familia	Mingir	2018			77	44	
Soup kitchen ProViaţă	Negrea	2010			35		
Social centre ProDezvoltare	Nisporeni	2004	21		15	15	
Social centre Casa Nadejda	Pîrîta	2008			53	11	
Social centre Alternativa	Pleşeni	2018		17	110	38	
Soup kitchen Rază de Soare	Rădoaia	2018			61	8	
Social apartements Casa tineretii	Ruseştii Noi	2008	12				
Social centre Casa Părintească	Sănătăuca	2018		17	94	17	
Social centre Mângâiere	Satul Nou	2018			43	2	
Soup kitchen Binefacerii	Sofia	2018			79	7	
Family-like care house Casa Siguranţei	Şoldăneşti	2018	10				
Social apartements Stăuceni	Stăuceni	2018		26			
Social centre Armonie	Taraclia	2008		18	118	43	
Social centre Casa Rebeca	Tîrnova	2015	14		18		
Social centre Empatie	Tudora	2008		24	81	38	
Social centre Izvorul vieţii	Văleni	2007		19	82	54	
Youth club	Chişinău	2017			261	261	
Emergency aid		2004			1.068		
CONCORDIA Academia	Chişinău	2018				141	
			227	194	3.423	919	0

AUSTRIA

RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN
ADULT CARE PROGRAMMES
COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
SOCIAL BUSINESS PROGRAMMES

PROJECT NAME	TOWN	START DATE					
Learning assistance	Vienna	2016				45	
Basic education	Vienna	2016				15	
Family work	Vienna	2016			78		
Community activity (Language café)	Vienna	2016			225		
LenZ Urban	Vienna	2018		8			
C.a.m.e	Vienna	2020				19	
			0	8	303	79	0

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 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs



 Bundeskanzleramt

THANK YOU! MULȚUMESC! БЛАГОДАРЯ! FALEMINDERIT!

Monetary donations secure our activities. A large number of donations in kind and services help us to keep our expenses low. Many thanks for your important contribution.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR PROGRAMMES:

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