

STREET CHILDREN

CHILDREN IN THE STREETS

A JOINT PROGRAMME OF THE KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION AND THE SOROS FOUNDATIONS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD BANK

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P o l a n d

R o m a n i a

S l o v a k i a



Note to the reader

The document you are reading is divided into two parts.

The first briefly addresses the problem of street children/children in the streets in Central and Eastern Europe, and presents the programme run by the King Baudouin Foundation and the Soros foundations in 10 countries. This first part is published in English, French and Dutch.

The second part, published in English only, contains a brief presentation of the activities of the local organisations supported within the framework of the programme, together with their contact details. The aim of this is to facilitate direct contacts between these local organisations, as one of the programme's key objectives is in fact to encourage mutual enrichment across borders.

Any interested person or organisation is invited to contact the organisations mentioned in the second part of the document, who will give a warm welcome to any approach. Language can sometimes present a problem in these contacts, and the country co-ordinators of the programme can play a part in facilitating matters. Their details also appear in the document.

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GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STREET CHILDREN — CHILDREN IN THE STREETS PHENOMENON IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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INTRODUCTION

It is now ten years since the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child - one of the most ratified conventions in the history of human rights with only two countries in the world which have not yet ratified it. Nevertheless, despite the philosophy underpinning the Convention on the Rights of the Child which is premised upon a general commitment to improving the nature of life experiences afforded to our children, by enhancing their social civil and political rights, it is clearly the case that many children around the world still experience considerable suffering, abuse, exploitation and are living in conditions which seriously inhibit their healthy growth and development.

Every country in the pan-European community has ratified the CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD but the rapid social, economic and political transition undergone by many countries - especially in Central and Eastern Europe has had a significant impact on large sections of the population and particularly on families and children. The impact on families of increasing levels of unemployment, poverty and the breakdown of social welfare and security systems put many children at risk. This report is concerned with one such group of children at risk - street children or children in the streets - and with the joint programme of the King Baudouin Foundation and the Soros Foundation, established in 10 countries¹ in Central and Eastern Europe to address this phenomenon.

This report has to be acknowledged for what it is - an overview in which very general comments will be made about a situation in which many children find themselves in a number of countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The situation in all ten countries cov-

ered is very similar although there are differences from country to country which are worthy of comment. Two fundamental questions arise when analysing the problem of street children. First, how best to prevent children from finding themselves on the street? and, secondly, how best to help and support them when they do find themselves in such a situation? By presenting a general overview of the experiences faced by street children in these regions, this report aims at helping to alleviate their living conditions.

Defining the phenomenon

It is difficult to categorise children simply as "street children" because often what brings them to the attention of the authorities are other aspects of their lives - crime, drug abuse, ill health etc.. Street children are but one group of children who may be said to be "at risk" or in "especially difficult circumstances". Nevertheless, the nature of their experience of living on or off the streets does differentiate them from other children at risk and merits specific attention being paid to their situation.

Two broad definitions can be applied. First, there are those children who can accurately be called "street children" because they actually live on the streets, and their lives generally revolve around their experiences on the streets. Second, there are those children who can be referred to as "children on the streets" who may be on the streets during school hours or who spend much of their daily existence on the streets, but who return to their homes and families at night. A third expanded definition offered in a country report from Poland seeks to include all those children and young people who spend time on the streets not because they have no home, but because the emotional support offered at home, in the schools or in the community is very limited and does not meet their needs.

¹ Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and Romania.

What is clear from reports from those countries included in this programme and from commentaries on street children in other countries², is that many children who live on the streets find themselves in a desperate situation where they are exposed to considerable risk in general, are subject to sexual and physical abuse and where the lack of resources and social welfare provision adds to the difficulties they experience.

The Scale of the Phenomenon

What is clear from the country reports and from other materials³ on street children/children in the streets is that there is a distinct lack of systematic information and evidence collected about the scale of the phenomenon. While a number of countries can indicate the scale of the phenomenon on the basis of statistics available, even here they have to be considered carefully with regard to their reliability. For example, the projected figure for Romania is around 3,500 children; in Poland 500; in the Czech Republic 1,300; and in Hungary 1,200 children. The lack of accurate figures however, can no longer conceal what is a major issue for many countries and which could deteriorate, as we will illustrate later.

Criticism of the lack of accurate statistics is not to question the integrity of those collecting the statistics but reflects rather that "street children/children in the streets" do not fit clearly into statistical categories. For example, in Lithuania, the lack of statistical information is attributed to the lack of any clear definition and appropriate statistical methods. Statistics on "street children" are then drawn by inference from the numbers of children who do not attend school. Similarly in the Czech Republic though the phenomenon is acknowledged, no real analysis has been undertaken.

Nevertheless, there is agreement that the phenomenon of street children in Europe in general⁴, has in recent years become an issue of major significance in a number of countries and that the general social and economic situation in which many countries in Central and Eastern Europe find themselves has created a situation where many children find themselves living and surviving on the streets.

Sidorenko-Stephenson, in referring to the situation in Russia for example, without putting precise figures to it, argues that the phenomenon has reached proportions not seen since the inter-war years.

The dramatic rise in the numbers in most countries involved in the programme, reflects that the phenomenon has increased in scale in recent years. Further there is a likelihood that official statistics understate the real numbers of children involved. It is a significant issue requiring urgent attention, associated as it is with the marginalisation and social exclusion of our children and young people. The problem of children living on the streets is not new. However, the fact that the scale of the problem in many Central and European countries has increased also that the existing social welfare framework is, for a number of reasons, unable to respond to the needs of such children adequately, endows it with immediate significance.

EXPLAINING THE PHENOMENON OF STREET CHILDREN/CHILDREN IN THE STREETS

The phenomenon of street children is not a recent one. In most countries in Central and Eastern Europe as they undergo rapid social and economic transition, the situation of fam-

² See Svetlana Sidorenko-Stephenson "The Abandoned Children of Russia - from "privileged" class to "underclass", paper presented at the conference on Education and Civic Culture in Post Communist Societies, London, SSEES, November 1998.

³ See Sidorenko-Stephenson, op.cit.

⁴ Street Children, Report prepared by the Steering Committee on Social Policy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1994.

ilies and children in general has become particularly difficult, and it is not therefore surprising that there is also clear evidence of rising crime rates among children and young people; alcohol and drug abuse; health problems; poor educational attainment; malnutrition and so on. The fact that reference has also been made to the worsening situation of children in Central and Eastern Europe in a number of health and welfare areas (for example, increasing mortality rates)⁵ does make it clear that the phenomenon of street children/children in the streets does have to be seen in the context of negative experiences for many children in the midst of major social and economic decline.

As commented on in a number of the countries involved, the issue of street children in public consciousness has a rather negative image and there is the general perception that the children are themselves somehow to blame for the situation they find themselves in; or that their behaviour is seen to be more problematic for others. What this ignores are the major factors which propel children into a life on the streets - a life which very often puts them at serious risk of abuse, ill health and occasionally loss of life.

Social and Economic Causes

What is clear from a number of sources is that for many children in Central and Eastern Europe there is a gap between what the UN Convention promotes in terms of their rights and the actual situation in which they find themselves. The cost of rapid social and economic transition is very high for children. The long term consequences for them as individuals and for the societies which depend on their growth and development for the future have negative implications. For most of the countries involved, the rapid transition from

centrally planned economies with predominantly state owned resources and industries, to largely privatised free market systems, has been accompanied by a number of negative conditions affecting families and children. There are a number of indicators which show just how negative the effects are for many children. These include, in rather general terms:

- *extreme poverty*
- *unemployment*
- *divorce and separation*
- *increases in mortality rates*
- *a decrease in life expectancy, especially for men*
- *homelessness*
- *increase in crime amongst the young*
- *increase in suicide rates*
- *increasing victimisation of children in terms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse*
- *displacement*
- *separation from parents and families*
- *increase in health related problems*

What also has to be appreciated is that not only have children been experiencing the extreme effects of rapid social and economic decline since the late 1980s to the early 1990s, but, that this is in the context of a loss of social welfare and health provisions which were previously available - primarily on a universal basis - under the former political regimes.

When countries gained independence and moved from a socialist political system, in some cases this also meant the loss of well respected and appreciated health and social welfare systems. In contrast, children and families in many countries in the region, in the face of extreme poverty and lack of resources, find themselves in need of basic social and welfare assistance now more than ever. The low levels

⁵ Generation in Jeopardy: Children in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Ed. Alexandre Zouev, Unicef, Sharpe London. 1999.

of state support available to children and families at a time of high unemployment; soaring food prices; increasing disintegration of the family; growth of youth-related problem behaviours; deterioration of health levels; means that children in the region are more vulnerable than ever before.

Clearly, those countries which are either in a situation of conflict or border such countries will have a number of displaced or refugee families - especially those countries in the Balkan region where the current conflict may well contribute to an increased refugee flow into countries where material and social resources are already overstretched. In such a situation, the impact of displacement in a situation of exceptionally difficult circumstances coupled with low levels of available support inevitably put children at greater risk of having to develop alternative life styles.

It is in this general context, that many children find themselves forced on to the streets either to assist in supporting their families or indeed to support and look after themselves. A greater understanding of the social, economic and political factors which propel children into living on the streets is an important element in the search for means of both preventing children from living on the streets and in assisting them when they are in that situation. The adoption of a repressive⁶ and negative perspective on such children, both ignores the true nature of their circumstances and will not in the long run assist either the children or the societies in which they live. A recurrent theme in all reports available on street children/children in the streets is a need for greater knowledge of their circumstances and the significant causes of their problems.

Family Factors

It is difficult to separate social and economic factors from family related factors in explaining the phenomenon of street children/children in the streets since the wider context of social decline and rapid social transition undoubtedly affect the experience of families. Thus, in many country reports, the effects of poverty and unemployment in terms of increasing family strain and conflict are seen to contribute directly to the break up of families, to the divorce of parents, to alcohol and drug abuse, to the lack of adequate care for children, to the abuse and neglect of children by their families, to the need to beg and live off what might be called the "black economy". The absence of an adequate system of social benefits and social assistance merely serves to compound this state of affairs and indeed makes it worse for the children and families involved. Families are characterised in country reports as either having no adult in employment or in having both parents out working and still not earning enough to survive adequately. In such circumstances, on the basis of evidence from children themselves, children may be forced by parents to earn money or may simply be left to fend for themselves and be vulnerable to exploitation by other adults or indeed older children.

Many country reports also refer to the fact that schools - an important medium of socialisation and caring for children - are so lacking in resources and qualified staff, that children are again marginalised from a significant mainstream form of child, family and indeed social support. What is also a recurrent feature in the background of street children/children in the streets, is that many of them have also been in state care and have runaway from the institutions in which they were placed - many of them relaying stories of abuse and neglect in the very institutions given the res-

⁶ The negative value of a repressive approach is discussed in the report of the Council of Europe, op. cit.

possibility of looking after them. Thus, where families are unable for whatever reason to look after their children the state institutions charged with adopting that role may not be able to fulfil it - again in the light of a lack of resources and qualified staff.

What has to be appreciated is that for many children, life on the streets, in comparison to their experiences at home or in state care, may be, despite whatever risks they expose themselves to, a much more attractive proposition. 50% of children interviewed in the study *Enfants de la Gare* - Bulgarian study of children in Bucharest, said that they much preferred the street to the daily family violence they experienced at home. Indeed, street children themselves do speak about what they see to be the general positive aspects of living on the streets - surely itself an indictment on the nature of the experiences previously afforded to them in their lives. 55% of them said that they liked their lives on the streets, and 69% said they would never give up their life on the streets because of what it had to offer them in comparison with what they experienced at home.

NATURE OF THE PHENOMENON

Our knowledge of what it is like to be a street child is still very limited and more work needs to be done in this area. Nevertheless, a number of small scale studies have been undertaken in a number of countries and these provide us with a useful though limited statement of the experiences of street children/children on the streets.

Who are the street children — children on the streets?

What we do know is that children can be on the streets from any age, though, as the Council of Europe report stated, children are rarely actually born on the streets in Europe. The stu-

dies that have been done do suggest that the majority of street children are boys though there is evidence of an increasing number of girls being involved. 14 - 17 year olds constitute the largest group of children on the streets, though there are also considerable numbers in younger age groups - in the Bulgarian study 9% of those interviewed were under 10.

To illustrate some of the points already made above, three quarters of the children involved had been in state care.

Moreover, in many reports on street children, the main cities and capitals are an attraction for children who leave home or are forced to do so. Thus, many of the children in the streets may be from rural areas (where poverty might be expected to be worse) or at least from other smaller cities. The attraction of the capital city being that it provides greater opportunities for children to exploit the flow of human traffic and available material goods. What is afforded to them are better opportunities for food, and places to hide and live in. What is also afforded, is an escape from the abject poverty, abuse and family conflict that many children interviewed refer to.

In a number of countries - for example in Macedonia, Romania, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria - a large proportion of the children on the streets are gypsies or Roma people. Refugee flows are also reflected in Hungary, where families from Bosnia have gone, and in Poland where Romanian refugees have fled. In other countries - Lithuania, Latvia and Hungary, children on the streets may also come from the ethnic minority groups living there - for example children of Russian families, or in the case of Hungary the large Chinese population.

The general point to be made though is that there are many reasons as to why children find themselves on the streets and that they in part reflect wider economic, social and politi-

cal issues both within and outside of their own countries. Children of all ages live on the streets for different reasons and in doing so, all put themselves at considerable risk.

What also has to be remembered is that though the majority of children involved in the country reports live on the streets many of them also return home at night - the streets providing an opportunity for them either to assist, voluntarily or because they are forced, in supporting their families through begging or working on the streets, or at the very least, a daily escape from their experiences at home.

What do they do?

Children on the streets are most commonly involved in begging, theft and organised crime, though many children also do earn money through selling goods on the streets. What is more worrying, is the group of children who resort or are forced into prostitution and homosexuality as a means of earning money either for themselves or for an adult, and thereby put themselves at considerable risk. Children away from home and in desperate need of money and food are very vulnerable to the inducements of others to become involved in the provision of sexual services.

In terms of prostitution, most countries report on the involvement of young girls into prostitution as a means of earning money and being able to live on the streets. What is very worrying is that this is not simply restricted to young women or older girls but may well involve very young children. Reports from Poland and Romania suggest that very young girls of as young as ten or even less have been involved in rendering sexual services. A distinction also has to be drawn between those children who are induced to make money for others and those who perform sexual services because "it is nothing to be ashamed of, it is just a way of earning money." The fact that 86% of children interviewed in a Romanian study state that

prostitution is the most employed means of earning money illustrates its attraction for children in what is clearly a high demand activity.

The same applies to young boys who are involved in providing homosexual services. A common feature of their behaviour is that their services are offered around stations and other busy public places. What we also know is that quite apart from the provision of sexual services, children on the streets are also the subject of sexual and physical abuse, sometimes from other children, and there is also information on children being abducted to be employed in the sex trade in other countries and in pornographic films and literature. It is undoubtedly a high risk business living on the streets.

The Risks for Street Children – Children on the streets

Living on the streets does put children at great risk not only from the treatment they receive from others but also from the effects on themselves of their life styles. The risk of sexual abuse, especially for girls is high. In one study done in Romania, 27% of the children who were interviewed reported that they had been raped. Overall the risk of sexual exploitation is generally very high. What this also means is that many of the young children who are intravenous drug users and who may share needles, are further exposed to the dangers associated with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including AIDS.

What reports from across Central and Eastern Europe also convey is that children on the streets, from a very early age, are at risk of becoming involved in alcohol and drug abuse with the cheaper substances such as glue and solvents more frequently used. Their vulnerability is then increased.

A characteristic of life on the streets for children is that they do tend to congregate around

railway stations, bus stations, squares, shopping centres and other areas which provide them with increased opportunities for selling goods, begging, stealing and so on.

Comment has already been made on the fact that the attractiveness of life on the streets may well reflect poor home and family circumstances. When children are asked about their lives on the street what is remarkable is that many of them in the studies conducted have shown a wish to adopt a more conventional life style in the sense that they wish for educational opportunities; better relationships with their families, and better employment opportunities. What they are reluctant to give up, and there is a message here for any organisation seeking to support children on the streets, is the freedom and responsibility for their own lives that they have. What also has to be recognised, is that life on the streets is very much a social experience and that the children may look after each other; work together and are generally more socially organised than their life styles would suggest. This is not to say that they are not at risk, but rather to illustrate that any attempt to support or assist these children has to take into consideration their experiences as seen by them.

Regional/Country Differences

In such a general discussion as this, commenting on differences within the region is somewhat difficult and many of the issues relating to street children are common to all countries in Central and Eastern Europe, just as the issues relating to children at risk are common to all countries throughout the region.

Nevertheless, a number of more specific comments can be made. First, in those countries which had a tradition of institutional care of children, the phenomenon of street children and children on the streets is more significant. As institutions close and as resources and qualified staff for those which remain open

have become more scarce, there is a trend which sees more and more children on the streets - either because they have run away from state institutional care, or because the state is no longer able to provide such care. The concern for the future must be that in countries such as Romania and Bulgaria where considerable numbers of children are still in state care is that there is potential that the number of children on the streets could increase significantly. The situation in Romania and Bulgaria is particularly serious because the number of children in institutional care are in the tens of thousands.

Secondly, there is a concentration of street-children along ethnic lines. The high proportions of street children in the South are predominantly from the Roma community. Whereas to a greater extent in the countries in the north of the region such as Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, it tends to be those children who are Russian speakers who are marginalised and who do appear in disproportionately high numbers on the streets. Similarly, in those countries in the south of the region, especially in the Balkans area, there is the issue of high refugee flows as a consequence of the conflict there.

Thirdly, it is clearly the case that street-children/children on the streets have to be seen in reference to the state of the economic and political situation at any particular time. Thus, in those countries where the economic and political situation is worse, then the scale of the phenomenon of street children will tend to be more pronounced because of the impact in general on families and children of very negative life experiences. Should economies go into decline then the phenomenon of street children - in the absence of other forms of help - will in all likelihood, be more significant.

FUTURE TRENDS

Any projection as to what will be the likely trends regarding street children/children in the street is limited because of the current lack of systematic information and knowledge about this. Nevertheless, a number of broad generalisations can be made on the basis of available material.

First, if the economies and political situations of countries do not improve and indeed decline, then chances are that there will be more children and families at risk and there will be greater likelihood that the number of children on the streets will increase.

Second, in the absence of material resources and well qualified personnel, the situation of children on the streets will persist and the children will continue to be at serious risk of harm.

Third, if state institutions in those countries which still house large numbers of children close, then there will be a greater tendency for children to end up living on the streets.

Fourth, that failure to develop programmes for street children/children in the streets, will mean that their basic physical, health, emotional and educational needs will continue to be unmet.

Fifth, that the conflict in the Balkan region may well increase the numbers of displaced children and families, refugee flows and the appearance of children on the streets. The fact that refugee flows are currently to countries which themselves already have poor economies and political situations suggests that the problem may become worse rather than get better.

Lastly, based on the experiences and views of children themselves, there is a need for measures and facilities which provide them with resources to occupy them during the day and to meet their basic need for accommodation at night.

Even on the limited knowledge available to us, failure to meet the needs of street children/children on the streets will condemn increasing numbers of children to live at risk and to jeopardise their futures.

CONCLUSIONS

A number of general conclusions about the phenomenon of street children/children on the street can be drawn from the experience gained by those organisations which sought to support children in situations such as those described above. These, general though they are, would need to be taken into consideration in developing strategies and measures both to prevent more children from living on the streets and to assist those who are already living on and off the streets.

First, life on the street puts children at serious risk of physical and sexual abuse; at risk of serious health problems and may well inhibit their long term growth into healthy adults. Services and support have to be provided which, as far as possible, will address the serious risks faced by these children.

Second, it has to be appreciated that life on the streets is much more attractive for many children than the life they experienced at home or in state care. Services and support may well be required for families who have to cope with extreme poverty and the lack of appropriate welfare assistance and institutional care.

Third, there is a clear lack of material resources and qualified personnel to assist street children and to meet their educational, health and emotional needs. The lack of resources means both that there will be insufficient personnel available and that even those who do seek to help street children in the streets may lack the appropriate qualifications and professional training.

Fourth, the phenomenon of street children cannot be addressed without a broad social policy strategy which tackles those social and family factors which put children at risk in general. In a sense, the problem of street children illustrates clearly the failure and breakdown of the safety net provided by social assistance and social care programmes.

Fifth, such studies as have been done, indicate clearly that any measures developed to assist those children living on the streets has to be based on a better understanding on the nature of the problem and in particular of the experiences of the children and young people themselves. There is a lack of systematic knowledge about both the scale and the nature of the street children/children on the streets phenomenon. The collection of information about the scale of the phenomenon and the nature of the experiences of street/children on the streets must be a priority.

Sixth, it is not the case that there are no organisations seeking to help children who find themselves living on and off the streets, quite the opposite. There is however, as was acknowledged by experts in the country reports, a great need for some mechanism or body to integrate and co-ordinate the activities of the many different agencies - both governmental and in the NGO sector. In this way more effective support can be provided to street children/children on the streets.

Further, there is fear expressed in a number of country reports that as the phenomenon of street children is more openly acknowledged then the response both by the public and the authorities may well be less tolerant and more repressive as their "problematic" behaviour becomes more visible. However, given what is known about the factors which propel children to live on and off the streets, repressive measures and strategies will do little to either prevent the phenomenon or to assist those children currently on the streets. That much is clearly known. Children do not find themselves on the streets through any fault of their own - they do so for a variety of complex family, social and economic reasons. To blame them has all the hall-marks of "blaming the victim" and provides no realistic basis for prevention and support.

In conclusion, as stated at the outset, all countries in Central and Eastern Europe have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and there is therefore a general acceptance that the promotion of the rights of children is a good thing both for children and society in general. Though the emphasis in this report is on street children and children in the streets, any attempt to improve the conditions and living experiences of such children must be made in the context of the development of wide reaching strategies and policies which seek to address the circumstances of children at risk generally. That is, the best way to prevent children living on the streets and to assist those already on the streets - just as it is the best way to prevent children from committing offences; to improve their health; to improve their educational attainment; to enhance their employment opportunities; to improve their long term chances of healthy growth and development - is by implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The promotion of the rights of children and the implementation of the UN Convention will in itself contribute considerably to reducing the risks faced by our children.

Through implementation of the Convention and the promotion of children's social and political rights, through the appraisal of children as subjects in their own right and through recognition that the situation they find themselves in is not of their own making but can be attributed to wider societal and political influences, then progress can be made in rejecting the repressive approach identified in a number of writings in this area. However, it has to be acknowledged that implementing the convention will demand considerable resources - both financial and human - and that because of the political and economic situation in Central and Eastern Europe, it is the very lack of economic means which has put many children at risk in the first place. Nevertheless, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does provide a rights based framework in which the needs of our children can be met and treated as a priority *as of right*. It also provides a framework for co-operation and collaboration between the many NGOs and government agencies with a responsibility for children.

The inter-relatedness of the experiences of our children and their common causes does demand that measures and strategies are based on a wide-ranging and multi-agency approach. The UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD provides the framework for such an approach and has the potential not simply to improve the situation of street children/children on the streets but also of all children at risk. Meeting the needs of street children/children on the streets *as of right* displays a commitment to the principle that they are the victims of very powerful social, economic and political forces and are to be neither blamed nor punished for their situation. It is on such an approach that a policy of acceptance rather than rejection and repression can best be founded.

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PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

IN A FEW WORDS

The "Street children/Children in the streets" programme is being carried out in 10 countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Launched in 1998, the programme is planned to continue in its present form until the end of the year 2000.

It aims to develop and co-ordinate projects in favour of street children/children in the streets in these different countries. The programme allows for support of organisations working directly with the children, but also for the setting up and support of more structural initiatives, favouring a co-ordinated effort among organisations working with street children/children in the street, and increasing the awareness of the authorities and the general public to the problem.

About half of the total programme budget is funded by the King Baudouin Foundation and by local foundations belonging to the network of SOROS foundations, each covering about half of the budget for the country concerned. The total budget amounts to around 2,000,000 EURO.

Like the King Baudouin Foundation, the foundations of the Soros network are run by a pluralist Governing Board, representing the different strands of opinion within the country. The objectives pursued by these foundations are fully compatible with those of the King Baudouin Foundation, thus providing the necessary basis for a fruitful collaboration.

BETWEEN THE FOUNDATIONS, A WAY OF WORKING

Since 1996, the King Baudouin Foundation and 16 foundations of the Soros network in Central and Eastern Europe have shared the

experience of carrying out a programme as partners. Under the name "Improving Inter-Ethnic Relations in Central and Eastern Europe", this programme promotes dialogue between different groups and provides financial support to local projects. The collaboration between the foundations has proved to be beneficial and of tangible help to everyone. On the basis of this positive experience, the King Baudouin Foundation again turned to the Soros partners to launch a new initiative relating to street children.

Working in partnership means sharing funding, responsibilities and management decisions. Thus the aims to be pursued and the structure and organisation of the programme as described in this brochure are the result of in-depth discussions between the partners.

This approach requires close communication and the establishment of real collaboration at all levels. It takes time and can only exist through a willingness on both sides to invest a large amount of time and effort in a climate of mutual confidence. In this way, the cohesion and relevance of the whole programme can best be ensured, and small contradictions, misunderstandings or differences of opinion overcome.

DIFFERENT ROLES BUT A COMMON OBJECTIVE

While the decisions on the direction of the programme are made jointly, respective responsibilities within the partnership are assigned in a pragmatic manner: the Soros foundations based in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe set up the programme in their respective countries and ensure their daily running, sometimes with the help of another organisation; The King Baudouin Foundation is the driving force on the international level and ensures overall cohesion.

Thus there is collaboration in favour of a common objective: the success of the programme in each of the countries concerned. For the King Baudouin Foundation, this collaboration has the advantage that the local partners contribute to decisions their knowledge of local situations, and take care of the programme management in their country. For the Soros foundations, participation in a significant international programme enriches their experience and reinforces the national point of view. In addition, co-funding provides everyone with a greater impact for their investment in staffing and money.

TARGET GROUP

There are many different ways of defining the target group depending on the point of view chosen.

The partners opted for the dual definition "street children/ children in the streets" which has become the title of the programme. This definition has the advantage of being very concrete. It also implies the importance of considering the street, in the context of social work, as a living and socialising space for children.

- "Street children" are children under 18 years of age literally living on the street day and night.
- "Children in the streets" refers to children of school age who do not attend school regularly and thus hang around in the streets by day.

These two categories are suggested as guidelines, as it is well understood that the realities of the lives of these children evolve in such a way that over a given period a child can find itself successively in one or the other category, or even in other situations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The basic goal of the programme is to provide help to street children/children in the streets so that they can be completely reintegrated in society with the same opportunities as other children. This should be the result of an effective assumption of responsibility on the part of all the players concerned.

Such a goal requires concrete objectives and actions directed at the many facets of the problem. These objectives and actions are described below.

1. Support and expand the work carried out with street children/children in the streets, so that more children can be helped and a more targeted and better co-ordinated solution can be provided to their problems.

Principal actions carried out towards this objective: financial support for organisations on the ground; proposals for training of members of the NGOs; assistance to the NGOs in seeking new sources of funding.

2. Promote cohesion and co-ordination at the national level, in identifying the problems of street children/children in the streets and in the solutions proposed.

Principal actions carried out towards this objective: survey on the needs of street children/children in the streets in the country, and identification of the priority areas for work on defending the rights of these children (advocacy); provision of the fullest possible information concerning street children and the players/organisations working with them,

and establishment of a network between these players/organisations.

3. Expand the capacities at national and local level within both the NGOs and the communities, so that the needs of street children/children in the streets can be better met.

Principal actions carried out towards this objective: organisation or facilitation of meetings allowing exchange of knowledge and expertise between NGOs, dissemination of information on experience gained on the ground (lessons learned), establishment of a "resource centre" (support centre for NGOs) specialised in the problem of street children.

4. Raise the awareness of governments and the general public as to the rights and needs of street children/children in the streets, and encourage everyone to better assume their responsibilities in this area.

Principal actions towards this objective: establishment of awareness campaigns, lobbying public institutions, involvement of the representatives of the public and administrative authorities concerned in the follow-up of the programme (within the National Advisory Board).

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME AT COUNTRY LEVEL

A structure is put into place within each country to implement or reinforce the different actions planned. Apart from the partner foundation within the country, it includes:

National Advisory Board

This committee, composed of experts and representatives of the different authorities concerned, advises on the direction and progress of the programme. It is briefed regularly by the co-ordinator. In most of the countries the members of this committee have been involved in the selection process of the organisations to approach for financial support.

Country Co-ordinator

This person is the centre and focal point of the programme in their country, and has prepared a strategic plan for the establishment of the programme there. They are responsible for co-ordinating all the projects of the programme within his country, for organising training sessions, launching and motivating an NGO network, ensuring that the resource centre is set up and carrying out awareness and lobbying campaigns.

Organisations receiving financial support

These organisations have submitted a project in response to the appeal for projects launched in the country by the partner foundation. They have seen their project selected by the national jury. The number of projects supported by country within the framework of the programme varies between 4 and 14. A total of 80 organisations benefit from financial assistance.

For a brief description of the projects and the contact details of the organisations, please see the attachment.

A Resource Centre

The overall role of this support centre for NGOs is to facilitate networking and advocacy on the issue of street children/children in the streets by providing a place to organize meetings and by providing information on:

- *the players working with street children/ children in the streets in the country (NGOs and public sector);*
- *laws, conventions concerning children (national and international);*
- *the relevant international bodies;*
- *where to seek funds in the work with street children or children in the streets.*

ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Those responsible for the programme within the King Baudouin Foundation travel frequently to the countries concerned, visiting projects, holding working meetings, and participating in the selection of projects for financial support as well as in press visits together with Belgian journalists.

Once a year the programme managers within the different foundations meet to carry out a collective evaluation of the progress of the programme and the functioning of the partnership. Such meetings have been held in Prague, Czech Republic (1-2.3.98), Brussels, Belgium (19.9.98) and in Bucharest, Romania (22-24.4.99, following the country co-ordinators' meeting).

In addition the King Baudouin Foundation organises regular meetings of the country co-ordinators (about 3 per year). Such meetings have already taken place in Budapest, Hungary (24-25.4.98), in Varna, Bulgaria (3-4.7.98), in Tallinn, Estonia (4-5.12.98), and in Bucharest, Romania (22-24.4.99).

These meetings are aimed firstly at putting the 10 co-ordinators in contact with each other for an exchange of views on the work carried out, and thus facilitating a collective form of support. As they play a unique role in their country, these co-ordinators can indeed often feel isolated.

But the co-ordinators' meetings go much further than that: they also make it possible to debate and analyse in small working groups certain aspects of the programme, such as the development of strategic plans, the setting up of the resource centres, and the establishment of a network of NGOs working with street children.

Finally, during the course of these meetings visits are arranged to the current street children projects so as to give the participants a good look at the situations of these children and the work done by the organisations in the 10 countries.

COLLABORATION WITH THE WORLD BANK

Two departments of the World Bank called the "Urban Partnership" and the "World Bank Institute" have joined the partnership.

The Urban Partnership carries out a study aimed at identifying the success factors of local projects and wider actions in favour of street children/children in the streets within the 10 countries. The study concentrates primarily on the initiatives taken within the context of the programme, but is not be limited to this. It will be further developed in 3 to 5 countries in the framework of a second working phase, and the final report of the study, presenting success factors and experiences acquired, will be published in 2000.

The World Bank Institute will take charge of the organisation of international meetings attended by the NGOs supported within the programme's framework, representatives of the authorities of the 10 countries and other actors. These meetings will allow to start a debate with the authorities and will make it possible for the NGOs to discuss the conclusions of the study carried out by the Urban Partnership, to co-ordinate certain initiatives and to think about future prospects.

INITIATIVES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

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With the economic collapse after the fall of the Communist regime and the difficulties Bulgaria faced in the transition process, street children have emerged as a new and unfamiliar phenomenon in the country. The problem of street children arose in Bulgaria at the beginning of the 1990s. The collapse of the economy and industrial restructuring led to a significant reduction of living standards together with a sharp rise in unemployment. This predicament was compounded by the fact that marginalised communities (80% of them Roma) have traditionally been low-skilled labourers with limited education and access to the job market. Under these conditions, several hundred children are forced to beg or merely survive on the streets.

The social services system in Bulgaria lacks the relevant expertise and understanding of this grave problem to be able to address it in a relevant way. Currently it is being restructured from an institutionally based system to a more flexible and responsive social security net that can cope with new problems. Social assistance has not yet been adapted to the new reality. There is no governmental programme to support work carried out in favour of street children, and no institutional framework exists in this area at either national or local level. Nevertheless, three round tables were organised on this theme in 1993, 1996 and 1998,

under the auspices of the President of the Republic. These initiatives led to the creation of an informal network of NGOs active in the field.

Several organisations, in particular, run day and night centres, perform outreach work and carry out educational projects. Some of these activities are funded by grants from the European Commission in co-operation with ChildHope UK, as well as with the German and Swiss Red Cross.

The Resource Centre operates in the offices of the Open Society Foundation (OSF) in Sofia. It is managed by the country co-ordinator, who is collecting all information and compiling a bibliography on works relating to street children to make available to the NGOs, interested partners and to the 18 OSF info centres spread around the country. The NGOs are reacting very positively: not only do they consult the material available but they try to pass on to the Centre any information of interest. The survival of the Centre after the programme finishes appears secure. In fact the OSF is currently working on the creation of an 'NGO Resource Centre', of which the director is a member of the National Advisory Board. When the Street Children/Children in the Streets programme ends, the Resource Centre should therefore be integrated into this NGO Resource Centre.

All the NGOs have been identified (in fact most of them applied for funding), the selection has been made, and the contracts are on the point of being signed. There have already been mutual visits between NGOs working in favour of street children in different towns, but the network will not really be able to develop until the projects selected are operational. The goal is to set up a 'National Task Force', bringing together NGOs, the respective local and national authorities, such as the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Education, etc. and the National Advisory Board. This platform would meet at regular intervals in order to consult together and put into place common actions.

From then on, it is the National Advisory Board which handles the management of the programme in the medium term, monitors its conformity to the objectives set, helps the co-ordinator to implement the projects selected, and tries to exert pressure on government policies concerning child protection. The Board also participates in establishing the training programme, and the co-ordinator keeps it informed of the progress and results of this programme.

Two or three training sessions are planned in 1999, but their content has not yet been finalised. In function of the needs of the NGOs (those funded by the programme as well as others), themes such as project management, street work, the needs of street children or fund-raising will be addressed. Bulgaria has already had the benefit of training sessions given by British instructors working for Child-Hope. The co-ordinator also plans training sessions on the rights of the child in co-operation with Save the Children UK.

The programme has also benefited from good media coverage. In particular, the co-ordinator has been invited on to national radio to participate in a three-hour debate and to respond to questions from listeners.

A brochure on the rights of the street child, entitled "What do you know about the street children?", has been published. Each association has also planned some kind of activity to raise public awareness. Moreover, the selected NGOs intend to carry out a common information campaign. The NGO Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation also publishes a monthly bulletin on the problems of street children which is sent to all the players in the field.

A process aimed at involving the authorities has been started in the framework of another OSF programme: a series of workshops has been organised with representatives of the

respective ministries and of the NGOs on disadvantaged children and specifically on the subject of street children/children in the streets and drop-outs. However, it is too early to speculate on potential partnerships or precise financial forecasts beyond the year 2000.

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In the Czech Republic, we usually talk about “children in the street” rather than “street children”. There is no detailed analysis of the whole area of street children in the Czech Republic, they are usually defined with reference to other problem areas: drugs, prostitution, etc. The target group includes young prostitutes who are found in railway stations, latchkey kids who live in new housing areas in large housing settlements, Roma children, young people who live in abandoned buildings, cellars and squats (usually abusing drugs).

On the state level, work-sites of social prevention departments were founded in 1993 within the framework of the programme of social prevention. A new position was set up in these departments: the social assistant-street worker. There are about 33 of them nowadays. These assistants focus on groups of young people at risk, and spend most of their time in their natural environment: the streets. They work directly with drug-addicts and delinquents but also with all the groups that are endangered by this. However, state institutions don't cover all the needs of these targeted groups.

This explains why new projects have been started on non-governmental level (community centres, charity institutions, K-centres). NGOs are trying to solve the problems of the children in a more flexible way and they are more open to

the needs of regional street work. In 1997, the Association of street-workers was founded. Within this framework the Ethum bulletin is published, informing the specialised public about street work and other related topics in the Czech Republic. It's going to be partly supported by this project. The financial resources of non-governmental organisations are not sufficient, or there are no such organisations at all in particular regions.

Eight organisations benefit from some financial support from the Programme. Most of them are community centres (low-threshold), plus organisations working with young prostitutes in Prague and the Association of Social Assistants in Pilsen.

The Resource Centre will be set up soon in Brno, on the premises of the NGO Ratolest (former Lata). A budget of 3.000 dollars will enable a library to be created containing national and international publications and books as well as a data bank covering all the NGOs and public institutions active in the field of street children. The Centre will also take care of centralising information relating to the different programmes, activities and so on.

All the NGOs have been identified and contacted. Most of them have agreed to be part of a network and promised their co-operation. Thanks to the training sessions they will be able to meet regularly and exchange experiences.

The role of the National Advisory Board, which comprises four representatives of public institutions, is essentially to pass on information on the problems of street children, to select and evaluate the NGOs supported, and to define the needs in the training area, based partly on replies to a questionnaire sent to the associations in the field. Several subjects are raised in this way: fund-raising, project management, communication, psycho-pedagogy,... these themes will be addressed during the course of

three major (weekend) sessions and monthly (one- day) meetings. The co-ordinator will be directly responsible for this training programme. He is also charged with establishing a follow-up procedure and stimulating the exchange (including inter-sectorial) of information, knowledge and skills.

The press will be alerted to the inauguration of the Resource Centre. The annual report of the Open Society Fund will be published soon: it contains a description of the Street Children/ Children in the Streets programme. An important conference took place in March during which the NGOs and the public authorities had the opportunity of sharing their experience in different fields or types of street work.

Finally, a debate is currently going on in the Czech Republic to finalise a new Code of Social Assistance, which should have an impact on work with street children. Moreover, contacts have been made with Unicef with a view to carrying out a study of this phenomenon.

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In Estonia we have 100-200 street children and 4000-5000 children in the streets (result of round table). In his strategic plan the co-ordinator deplores the fact that in Estonia, street children-oriented social work is practically non-existent. Moreover there are virtually no street social workers. It is true that Estonia has only been independent since 1991. The Pedagogical University of Tallinn and the University of Tartu have begun to train social workers, but their current number and training do not yet measure up to existing requirements.

Yet street children certainly do exist in large cities like Tallinn, Tartu, Narva, as a result of rapid changes in society (poverty, etc.) They are becoming increasingly young, and, he reports, increasingly violent.

Several associations are trying to react to this phenomenon. A first conference was organised in November 1997 by the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, in order to draw the attention of Estonian society to this hitherto unrecognised problem. The Estonian Union for Child Welfare, the Estonian Children Foundation and the Estonian Red Cross are also active in the field of help for children. All these organisations have needs in training, information and co-operation and require financial support. These are the gaps which the Street Children/Children in the Streets programme is trying to fill.

The Resource Centre, called the Tallinn Children Support Centre, started life in February. It is not restricted to the problem of street children, but targets more broadly all children facing problems at school, at home or elsewhere. In fact, it is the fruit of a partnership between the Street Children/Children in the Streets programme and the Open Society Institute Child Abuse Programme. The Centre is open four hours a day during weekdays and anyone can apply there to obtain information. Unfortunately, the co-ordinator deplores the lack of street children material in the Estonian language, as most of the documents are in fact published in English.

The Centre also provides training sessions for teachers, child welfare workers, etc. It possesses data bases on all the authorities active in the field of the child and social welfare in the public sector, and on all institutions and NGOs. Three books were published last year: one on the data bank, another on co-operation, and the third on working within a network. The country co-ordinator of the Street Children Programme is currently preparing a manual on street children in Estonian, which should be published in June.

The Open Estonia Foundation (OEF) is responsible for the Centre. This foundation fully supports the Child Abuse team and will continue to do so in the year 2000. It benefits itself from the support of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, of Swedish Save the Children and from some additional funds from Tallinn City Government.

The co-ordinator is well placed to develop co-operation and working within a network. In fact, before taking over management of the OEF, he worked with the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, where for three years he ran a programme based on the same themes. This experience allowed him to forge numerous relations with regional and local authorities as well as with different NGOs.

The field of child and social welfare provides employment for only about 1200 people throughout Estonia. There are about 200 NGOs in the social field or in that of child protection, of which 20 to 30 work more directly for the benefit of street children.

The Centre has only been operational for a short time: it is continuing to collect information and is trying to establish Internet links with different organisations. On 11th March 1999 a round table session took place to which the OEF invited 30 people who are the most important players in the field of street children. This meeting proved most beneficial, and facilitated the development of an action plan until the summer.

Aside from the selection of the projects supported within the programme, the National Advisory Board has the goal of identifying shortcomings in matters of services, local initiatives and training sessions, and of alerting the co-ordinator accordingly. During its four meetings per year, it also focuses on future financing possibilities liable to ensure the longer term viability of these actions.

The co-ordinator organises training sessions for the nine projects selected. The training programme has two levels: one is destined for the project managers (9 to 14 people), the other is designed rather for the field workers (18 people). The training sessions take place every one or two months and consist of visiting supported projects and institutions. These visits are followed by discussions and lectures given by professionals on themes such as child psychology, working within a network, communication, organisational development, etc. Here too, child psychology is addressed in different stages as well as conflict management. Two psychologists, one from the Tallinn Child Support Centre, the other from the Tartu Child Support Centre, are collaborating in this programme.

The planned budget will allow these training sessions and exchanges of experiences to be continued until July. Swedish Save the Children will organise a week of training in Bucharest at the end of August. The co-ordinator also hopes to be able to organise a meeting or conference for all the Baltic countries in October.

As soon as the nine projects were selected and the Open Estonia Foundation signed the contracts, television, radio and the press were invited. Each project manager also wrote an article for the local press. It appears that the local media were very interested in the different projects and that they reported the information widely. The round table in March also ended with a press conference and reports lasting about ten minutes on the themes discussed were broadcast on several TV channels. Some political figures will be invited to the round table planned for autumn.

The strategy pursued in Estonia goes beyond the phenomenon of street children. Accordingly a new appeal for projects has just been launched to organisations concerned with children who face problems at school and at home, on the theme "Child Worry is Everybody's Worry". The OEF has received no less than 118 applications, of which we supported 12!

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Although it is difficult to assess its extent (there hasn't been any comprehensive research on the street children problem yet), the phenomenon of street children is certainly present in Hungary and takes on several different faces.

Among these children, young girls over the age of 10-12, often sold by their parents, wander around the Rakoczi square in Budapest or on motorway parking areas. Boys of 15 or 16, mainly Hungarians of Romanian origin, also end up in the prostitution circuit. School drop-outs are frequent. Since the upheavals of 1989, some alternative schools take in problem children, but it is still rare that real social work is carried out at these schools.

The opening up of the country has also brought with it a considerable increase in illegal immigrants: 80% of these clandestine children come from Romania. Most are Roma sold to Hungarian adults. They are brought to Hungary where they are forced to work (or beg) in the streets. And even if most of the young refugees from Bosnia stay in refugee camps, some of them live illicitly. Moreover there is a large Chinese community in Budapest, which includes some 3000 illegal immigrants (out of a total of around 8000). Aside from these categories specific to Hungary, we also find of course drug addicts, delinquents, homeless etc. So much for the scope of the task...

Faced with this situation, several authorities are attempting to attack the problem with the means at their disposal. The police for example, are confronted with the phenomenon of street children but are not trained accordingly. Public institutions (Youth Protection Institutes) have changed a lot since the new child care law was enacted in November 1997. Having suffered from the influence of centralising tendencies from the collectivist ideology, these institutions, which welcome several hundred children, are in a piteous state, and despite the goodwill of the staff, practise an old-fashioned and impersonal style of education. Since 1997, the number of homes has increased: children of 8-12 live together with the educators, tutors. The network of foster parents is growing, and the state homes have reduced the number of children. The Temporary Homes offer temporary accommodation to children under 18, providing food and lodging but no moral or psychological support. As for the Crisis Homes, they try to attack the problem of street children in a less superficial manner. More flexible than the Temporary Homes, these institutions work with social workers, a 'recent' profession in Hungary.

The new law on child protection, promulgated in 1997, sets up a new network of institutions, (Child Welfare Assistance). But the changes hoped for will need time to take effect, especially since the financial resources appear inadequate and many institutions still have to gain experience.

The Resource Centre is still in the project stage. In March 1999, the National Advisory Board met to propose institutions capable of carrying out the tasks necessary for such a centre. The institutions which applied as candidates have been invited to express their expectations faced with this new tool. The co-ordinator must then visit them. At the end of the selection process, the Centre should be set up in Budapest in June.

The Centre has established the following objectives up to the year 2000:

- *encourage co-operation between the participants in the programme (organisations and professionals in this area)*
- *serve as a link with the authorities and public institutions*
- *organise lectures for everyone who is in contact with street children*
- *create a network between the organisations and set up a training programme*
- *organise meetings and conferences between the players who work in the child care system.*

The exchange of knowledge and skills between the players in the field is also one of the priorities. It is one of the missions of the National Advisory Board, of which several members come from public institutions or teach social action at the Science University. Their participation thus constitutes a considerable advantage in better reflecting the information and in exerting pressure at both local and national level. In addition, each member of the consultative Committee has to specialise in a specific area of the street children problem.

The Centre will also have the delicate task of helping the organisations find other funding sources at the end of the programme. In reality, many Hungarian organisations risk being forced to end their activities after two years due to lack of financial resources. The Resource Centre intends on one hand to identify the opportunities, inform the NGOs about them and help them in this area, and on the other to approach the government in connection with the financial needs of the organisations concerned with street children.

As for the network, it is still in its infancy. The 14 organisations selected in the framework of the programme have each received a list detailing the contacts and activities of the other NGOs. The co-ordinator is hoping to obtain the

collaboration of a specialised newspaper to inform that sector more fully of what is being done. The 14 organisations selected for funding met in April 1999, and this was a first opportunity for personal exchanges.

The same goes for the training programme. With the help of two members of the National Advisory Board, the co-ordinator will identify the training needs of the NGOs and propose a programme, which she will be responsible for carrying out. A first training session is already planned for May and will focus on the following goals:

- *information exchange about the organisational background of the projects (some of the projects are going on in cultural settings, some of them in homeless service settings or child protection settings, involving different groups of children, having different scopes and concepts about the problems and solutions),*
- *consensus building about joint considerations for the evaluation of project outcome,*
- *planning useful ways of co-operation,*
- *formulation of expectations concerning the Resource Centre.*

Each of the 14 NGOs selected can send two people: the contact person and a professional who is participating in the project. The questionnaire sent to the NGOs will enable their needs to be assessed and the subject of the next training session, planned for October 1999, to be defined.

Pending the establishment of these structures (centre, network, training), different steps are being taken to raise the awareness of the sector and the public in general: interviews in the press, a TV programme for the young on street children, etc. An article aimed at a specialised magazine has also been written by the co-ordinator, while the public relations director of the Soros Foundation is getting actively involved in a strategy to raise media awareness.

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Although figures relating to street children/children in the streets vary according to the different sources, experts share the general belief that a third of Latvian families can be regarded as dysfunctional for one reason or another, and thus risk being incapable of providing for a harmonious development of their children.

The strategic plan produced by the co-ordinator lists about ten factors which encourage the development of this phenomenon. Besides socio-economic factors such as the rise in the rates of unemployment and of divorce, the plan also pinpoints the lack of co-operation between the institutions helping children, the lack of professionalism among the specialised staff, the numerous contradictions in the legal framework, and gaps in the educational system (with, for example, a lack of extra-curricular activities for financial reasons).

For the time being, the Resource Centre is trying to assemble a maximum of information (through books, reviews, newsletters, national and international laws) concerning the approaches and working methods in the struggle against the phenomenon of street children. Installed in the NGO Centre in Riga, it is open to all interested NGOs and other specialists. A budget will be allocated this year and next for equipping this centre, ordering books and periodicals

and for advertising. The future of the Resource Centre will depend on the maintenance of the NGO Centre in Riga, on the activities of the network of NGOs selected by the Street Children/Children in the Streets programme.

20 organisations participate in the NGO network Street Children/Children in the Streets. Given the growing interest of the third sector we expect that the network will expand in the near future. Representatives of various public and local institutions (such as the Children Affairs Committee at the Parliament, the Juvenile Police, the School Board, State Child Protection Centre, etc.) will be invited to express their expectations with regard to the NGO sector and more especially to the organisations participating in the programme in order to be informed of NGO activities and to find the most effective ways of co-operation.

Other NGOs whose investments and efforts for progress of child rights protection in Latvia are essential and which have already become powerful and more independent in their activities, such as Save the Children and the Latvian Children's Fund are not highly motivated to become the active participants of the NGO network of Street Children/Children in the Streets, although they are regularly informed of all the activities taking place within it (meetings, training sessions, etc.).

The National Advisory Board has made its selection of projects using a holistic approach to problem resolution. It assists and advises the country co-ordinator in carrying out the strategic planning of the programme, participates in the evaluation of the projects retained and helps to disseminate information, especially to the public authorities.

In accordance with the requests of the NGOs, the training sessions will address the following themes:

- *Understanding the child's development, and the importance of early relationship in the context of behaviour (4 hours)*
- *Optimal communication and management of conflicts (11 hours)*
- *The meaning of violence and assistance for children suffering from violence (7 hours)*
Street educators (street social work) and street children
- *Teamwork and available resources (governmental, local, NGO - who is responsible for what)*
- *Protection of child rights. Legal aspects*

Two sessions have already been devoted to work with drug addicts and have highlighted the need for additional training in this area. This training programme attracts a lot of enthusiasm and many organisations within the network have shown great interest, some of them even participating actively. For example the Salvation Army puts its premises at the disposal of the trainers, which reduces the costs.

In December 1998 the co-ordinator organised a press conference on the Street Children/Children in the Streets programme, allowing the media to be informed of the actions and activities planned. Several journalists wanted to be kept regularly informed of the progress of the projects. The strategic plan includes field visits for members of the National Advisory Board, and the media will be invited along too.

Public awareness is currently at a fairly high level due to the publicity given to the activities of the programme's organisations as well as to other national and international activities: a 20 minute documentary in November 1997, numerous articles in the local press, a lecture organised by the Union of the Intelligentsia in June 1998. In addition, UNICEF

has just organised a two-day seminar on the problems of street children and Aids, and an essay competition on this theme will be arranged for secondary school students.

The problem of street children is now becoming a priority for the public institutions, however, there is still lack of clarity as regards responsibilities at the different levels. According to the co-ordinator, the NGO sector is becoming increasingly powerful and certain functions should be delegated. It is up to the State to carry out structural reforms, to provide available and adequate assistance to children in need and to their families, and to devote more effort to preventive work at school.

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It's very hard to determine the real number of street children/children in the streets in Lithuania, partly due to the difficulty of defining these different terms appropriately and partly due to the absence of effective statistical methods. However, reports from various sources indicate that children do indeed live in the streets selling flowers or newspapers, washing cars or begging in the main streets of the large towns.

Among several actions taken by the authorities, let's mention the Children's Right's Protection Convention ratified in 1995 by the Lithuanian Parliament, as well as the National Programme "Prevention of crimes among children and youth" prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 1996 and ratified by the government in 1997. Since 1996, summer camp programmes carried out by state or non-governmental organisations are obliged to include "risk group" children (25% of the number of children).

Around fifteen organisations are active in the field of street children. Their initiatives - seminars and training sessions, leisure activities, medical care, educational programmes, summer camps, selection of foster families, etc. - are supported financially by municipalities, parishes or the Ministry of Education.

Nevertheless, these actions are still not really integrated into a global programme: the absence of long term vision, of co-ordination and co-operation, the lack of training and of specialised staff are some of the problems most frequently quoted by the people in the field.

The Resource Centre is installed at the Children Support Centre, where the country co-ordinator also works. It has a library containing works in the areas of psychology, methodology and information together with articles and publications relating to street children. A data base contains a listing of information on the NGOs, institutions and private individuals active in this field. Details on training sessions, seminars, help possibilities and so on are also available. Finally, it's a place where meetings and training sessions are held.

All the NGOs and people working with street children have been contacted by the co-ordinator and invited to the opening of the Centre. Some of them work in small groups and share common responsibilities. The network is thus being formed little by little, in parallel to larger group work and the planning of common activities.

In order to enhance his strategic planning work and follow-up of the projects supported, the co-ordinator can rely on the expertise of the National Advisory Board. Meeting generally every two months, the latter has made the selection of the projects, is kept informed of their progress and advises on the longer term continuity of the programme.

The main training needs have been identified: child psychology, family in crisis, management of conflicts, fund-raising, training of volunteers, schooling and motivation of this risk group. A workshop covering the psychological problems of street children has already been organised and four training sessions are planned. They will be offered to the NGOs, to volunteers

working with street children, to police officers and teachers confronted with this group of children. The country co-ordinator is responsible for the organisation of these training sessions.

Representatives from the media have also been invited to the opening of the centre. The co-ordinator and the staff of the Children Support Centre have been interviewed on television and by the press. They have given several lectures in Vilnius and other large cities.

Finally, psychologists from the Children Support Centre as well as the co-ordinator maintain contacts with the public authorities and institutions. By means of seminars and lectures they have presented to them the current situation in Lithuania and the steps already taken. Round table sessions have also made it possible to find ways of intensifying co-operation and improving the organisation of the work with the children and families at risk. Several local authorities and public institutions have expressed willingness to co-operate.

It is now hoped that these same local authorities, as well as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs - whom those involved in the programme will continue to follow up - will supply financial help, particularly for the continued goals of the programme after the year 2000. The presence on the National Advisory Board of representatives of public institutions (police inspectors, directors of ministerial departments, etc....) constitutes an undoubted advantage in this respect.

MACEDONIA

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The resource centre will function as an integral part of the library of the Institute of Social Work and Social Policy. The resource centre will provide information and literature for street children. The most important literature, especially manuals for work with street children and children in crisis situations, will be translated into Macedonian in order to be accessible to all interested institutions. The Centre will create two types of database - one will be of NGO's working with street children and children in general, and the other will be a database of the street children. The database of street children will be created in the form of personal files and the information will facilitate the most efficient casework. The Institute of Social Work and Social Policy will give its impact on the work of the Resource Centre by providing professional assistance in organizing the training and offering professional counselling and supervision for the NGO's. The students from the Institute will assist the Centre on a voluntary basis in all its activities.

So far, the location for the Resource Centre has been defined, and the renovation of the infrastructure is in its last phase. Three out of four agreements have been signed up with the NGO's. After the renovation of the Centre has been completed there will be a public promo-

tion of the Resource Centre where the public will be informed of its goals. Also there will be attempts to promote the work of the Centre in the media in order to provide a more targeted interest from all the relevant groups.

The Country Coordinator will coordinate the work of the Resource Centre as well as the work of selected NGO's.

One of the primary goals of the Centre will be to establish a Network of the relevant organizations (NGO and public) working or in contact with the population of street children or in the field of child protection in general.

All the relevant NGO's will be informed with an official letter and will be invited to use the facilities of the Centre. All interested parties will have access to the centre.

The training will be organized and coordinated by the resource centre. The training will be organised, according to the strategy, in two sessions. The content of the training sessions will be defined according to the identified needs of the selected NGO's. The lecturers will be mainly domestic professionals and scholars and, where appropriate, a foreign lecturer will be invited. The sessions will be organised for the selected NGO's and for all relevant public institutions.

The Resource Centre will be responsible for contacts with the media and will take all the possible steps to increase public awareness about the street children population in order to provide and initiate the necessary protection from society. The Resource Centre will organise briefings for the media to inform them about the implementation of the project and its progress. The work of Centre will be presented through the local TV stations. The Centre will promote not just its own work but the work of the NGO in the area of street children. It will send information letters to all state and local newspapers, radio and TV stations.

POLAND

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Who are "street children" in Poland? They are children who spend most of the time on the street because they don't have the minimum of physical and emotional protection at home. The street is their home and school, a place for meeting people and a working place. The problem of street children in Poland is not as great as in Brazil, Africa or African ghettos in USA. Polish street children usually know who their parents are, and they generally sleep at home. However they are emotionally homeless. They usually live in poverty, which is often accompanied by addictions and other problems of their parents. Nevertheless these children go to school - more or less regularly. They earn money begging, helping in petty larceny, washing or guarding cars, selling things, sometimes driving back trolleys in the supermarkets, or in prostitution. According to the estimated data in the age group between 6 and 18 years old, 13,5% of children live in dysfunctional families, which is over 12000 (1200 thousand) in the whole country.

The closed state re-socialisation institutions for young people like care or educational centres are often a nursery for criminals. Children escape from these institutions and come back home to their own environment and family, even if it is harmful. Therapy of street children is usually taken up too late, when the children are already 13-14 years old, and when it's too

late for significant effects.

The "street children/children in the streets" programme in Poland was started in 1997 with a meeting of representatives of organisations working with children, who produced a report on this issue for the King Baudouin Foundation. The programme aims at improving the situation of street children and helping them in the process of reintegration in society, working out an alternative care system for them and stimulating co-ordination between NGOs concerned.

The Resource Centre, which is located in Lodz in the headquarters of Monar (an NGO) and is administered by one of the employees of this organisation, collects information on Polish NGO's that are active in helping street children (until now, the Centre has collected data on more than 170 such organisations from all over Poland), as well as on projects and laws that exist in Poland and abroad. The Centre also has articles and documents that have been published in Poland and in Europe on this subject.

There is still considerable uncertainty concerning the Centre's future after the year 2000. The leaders of the programme would like the Centre to be an integral part of the network of organisations working with street children. Between 30 and 40 organisations have been offered to co-operate in this network.

The national co-ordinator, a sociologist, has prepared a training programme: the primary objective of the training sessions is to offer a forum for the exchange of experiences between the NGO's who receive financial support from the programme. Training sessions on subjects suggested by the organisations and study visits have already started. During each study visit a representative of one organisation presents to the others the project and the way of executing it.

One of the programme's other goals will be to increase awareness in public opinion by inviting the media to conferences, putting journalists in contact with the NGO's and informing them on a regular basis of some of the relevant issues. This is one of the tasks of the National Advisory Board. The presence within its ranks of a few VIP's (representatives of the Ministries of Education and Justice, the University of Lodz, etc.) should maximise the impact of this awareness and lobbying campaign. The Board is also responsible for finding funding that will ensure the programme's viability over the longer term.

ROMANIA

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The Street Children/Children in the Streets programme started in Romania in September 1998, on the joint initiative of the King Baudouin Foundation and the Open Society Foundation of Romania. The responsibility for developing and implementing the strategy of the programme falls on the Romanian Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations Active in Child Protection (FONPC).

The Resource Centre has already been operational in Romania for several months. It was set up in association with the municipality of Bucharest (which funds the premises, heating and electricity), the Romanian Government - Department for Protection of the Child-, and the Save the Children organisation, which covers salaries, furniture and equipment. The Centre, which in fact constitutes one of the projects funded by the programme, is managed by a member of the Save the Children staff. Some of its activities are monitored by the programme co-ordinator. Three professionals work there: a legal expert, an executive responsible for relations with other NGOs, and a programmer.

The Centre currently possesses a complex data base (to be expanded with the help of various experts), as well as a meeting area where meet-

ings can be held between the NGOs and the local and central authorities (a basic agreement has been signed with the 15 NGOs concerned with the fate of street children). Relevant information can be obtained there directly or through a monthly bulletin.

Its activities are oriented round three basic objectives: to facilitate the partnership between the NGOs and the authorities by, for example, organising meetings on specific subjects, to co-ordinate any common projects, and to implement training sessions.

Longer term there is no shortage of objectives. It is intended to publish a study on the phenomenon of street children in Romania, to list all the social services active in this field, to inform them of the objectives of the Resource Centre and how to access it, to prepare a common strategy for the protection and reintegration of street children, and to develop partnerships between the NGOs concerned, - all this, while informing the public at large and even attempting to change its perception of the whole problem.

These ambitious goals face, however, several obstacles. In reality many NGOs carry out their actions independently from each other, even in a spirit of competition which obstructs effective co-operation. Differences in methodology as regards problem-solving even lead to conflicts which impact negatively on the children themselves. Under these conditions, it is equally difficult to obtain information on the children, even when they are helped by public organisations. But despite these difficulties, the Centre maintains the goal it has set for itself, namely to establish a well structured and organised institution, able to provide co-ordinated data which can be effective in facilitating the reintegration of street children.

The National Advisory Board, composed of seven members, has selected the projects for funding. It monitors the progress of the pro-

gramme and advises on the strategies to be followed, in close collaboration with the co-ordinator. The latter has also developed a monitoring system, both technical and financial, of the 5 NGOs selected.

A network has already been set up, as the Resource Centre is working in partnership with 20 NGOs and with the Department for Child Protection as the central authority. Together they carry out common activities aimed at helping street children directly. The Centre has received from the Programme a modem and an Internet connection, as have the four other NGOs selected. Since January 1999, this communication method has allowed people to obtain on request the monthly bulletin published by the Centre, as well as other information sourced from the data base.

After 2000, it is hoped that the City Hall of the capital will take over the financial and organisational responsibilities of the Centre. The Department for Child Protection should for its part finance similar centres in other large cities where the phenomenon of street children has reached alarming proportions.

As for the training needs of the NGOs, an evaluation questionnaire and open discussions have enabled these to be assessed and some conclusions to be drawn as mentioned above:

- *The participating NGOs need training on the subjects of fund-raising and project management.*
- *There is a lack of communication between the NGOs working with street children.*
- *A training on the subject of the approach to street children would be welcome, to facilitate communication between the management of the NGOs concerned with child protection and other players in street children protection.*

Based on this inquiry, an action plan has been worked out:

- *A management training of 4 days has been organised with the technical support of the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society. A first module on the subject of fund-raising took place in February. 15 representatives from 9 NGOs took part. 20 NGOs of Bucharest offering services to young street people will have the opportunity of improving their skills in project management and of reviewing the functioning of their organisations during a second module in April. The constructive exchange of experiences between these NGOs is also one of the results expected from these two modules.*
- *In June 1999, a two-day workshop will address the "minimum standards for services offered by the NGOs to street children" and the "strategies for communication with the general public in the field of assistance to street children". About forty representatives of the Bucharest NGOs and of the authorities responsible for the protection of street children will participate, after arrangement into groups according to type of service (day centres, social, family, school reintegration, etc.).*
- *In September, another 2-day workshop will address the subject of the rights of the child, as well as the communication strategies between the players concerned with the protection of street children. This workshop is offered not only to the NGOs and the management of the Protection of the Child, but also to representatives of the Bucharest and provincial Police, in the hope of encouraging common programmes and creating a joint intervention network (NGOs and authorities).*

This training project has been sent to Unicef in the context of a request for financial support.

SLOVAKIA

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Over the last few years, the phenomenon of street children has grown in scope in Slovakia. This is due in part to the fact that the Slovakian social system was not prepared to deal with the political and social upheavals that occurred at the beginning of the 1990's.

One of the legacies of communism is the huge dormitory towns consisting of blocks of flats, with insufficient opportunities for leisure and free time activities. As a result, many young people who live in them spend entire days in the streets and have contact with drugs. Petržalka in Bratislava is the largest of these units with 150 000 inhabitants. There was and still is a low mean age for treated addicts, the greatest number of them are between 14 and 19. There is also a low age for the time at which the first contact with drugs occurs. In some cases it has been younger than 10 years old. 62% of all of Slovakia's young drug addicts live in Petržalka!

There are many Roma settlements, especially in the east of the country. Many young people together with their parents and families live in very poor conditions. Because of their very low educational level they are the first to lose their jobs. The unemployment rate of Romany in some regions is more than 80 %. Some Roma parents go so far as to prevent their children from attending school in order to receive more financial aid (granted to problem children).

In addition to these two categories, which are specific to Slovakia, there are also, as in other places, children who sell flowers in large cities. Most of them are Romany. In many cases their parents push them to find money in this way. Also many young drug addicts engage in petty crime to obtain money. However there are no children's gangs in Slovakia. The rise in youth unemployment is likely to further aggravate this phenomenon.

Given the extent of the problem, public institutions (Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Work, Social Affairs and the Family) are creating consultation centres, child psychiatric centres and social services. However, these various institutions only address one highly specific aspect of the problem and do not co-operate *very effectively* with one another. State organisations have not entered this field yet and for NGOs it is very difficult to find sources of finance. Also there is still a lack of professionals in this field.

Until 1989, social policing was the responsibility of 'social curators'. Although the role of these curators has since changed, their function is still unclear: they are supposed to protect children, but they also have the authority to place them in an institution.

There are a considerable number of organisations in Slovakia that attempt to aid specific groups: drug addicts, mistreated children and children who are victims of sexual abuse, Roma children, etc. Crisis centres are opening all over the country. They provide psychologists, social workers and volunteer students and are contributing a new sense of professionalism. However the whole range of *social services is not covered*. There is a lack of street work programmes with marginalised sections of the population and of low-threshold centres despite the urgent need of establishing these facilities. In general, the associations that began their operations on an informal basis are much more

organised than certain public institutions, which very often limit themselves to giving impersonal recommendations. It is generally accepted that the Christian centres are the most effective, because they work individually with all of the children, regardless of their race or their religion.

One of the primary needs of these NGOs is, of course, money, whether to finance facilities, pay salaries, purchase equipment, and so on. Some of the other needs mentioned are as follows: a communications system between the entities concerned, the application of laws that exist to protect and support those who work with children in the street, training and access to concrete data. In addition, there are too few centres that are open 24 hours a day, too few professionals, too little co-ordination and no system for families with major problems, no research or needs assessment networking. There is a great interest in bringing new experiences from Western European countries.

The Resource Centre in Slovakia is currently called 'Inquiry and Documentation Centre Street-child' (IDC). Its development is progressing according to schedule: the premises are in the process of being equipped, the databases are being updated and new relationships are being established with 16 organisations from around the outskirts of Bratislava. In two years, the Centre hopes to have complete data on organisations that provide direct assistance to street children, those that address certain 'corollary' problems (drugs, Roma minorities,...), and contact information for donor and partner organisations.

The co-ordinator has contacted eight organisations regarding the network. They will have access to the network as of August 1999.

Training will be organised by Man in Crisis, in Nitra. The co-ordinator is in contact with the various groups being targeted. The Resource Centre and the Training Centre are currently

examining the possibility of working together with the assistance of the National Advisory Board.

After having completed the selection process, the National Advisory Board organises a consultation meeting with the co-ordinator every three months, in order to monitor funded projects and to see if the implementation of the programme accurately reflects the goals of the strategic plan drawn up by the co-ordinator.

In order to identify training needs, the co-ordinator sent the NGOs a questionnaire, the answers to which will be analysed in April. There are plans to organise three 3-day sessions for roughly thirty NGO members and to organise a 2-day seminar for 120 NGO employees. This training will be given to the eight organisations selected, as well as to some fifteen other associations that deal with the problem of street children. The project is supported by the Ministry and includes the participation of several psychologists and specialists in this area.

A meeting is scheduled with SLONAD (Slovak Hope for Children) and UNICEF, which are already working with the Ministry to draft new social legislation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPORTED PROJECTS

PLACE	Varna
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ORGANISATION	GAVROCHE ASSOCIATION
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ADDRESS	UL. Voinishka 3A • 9000 Varna
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TEL/FAX +359-52.300 229	E-MAIL gavroche@mail.vega.bg
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PROJECT NAME	The Socialisation of Homeless Children
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MARIA PROHASKA
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The association was formed in 1995 and runs a day and night Childcare Centre for homeless children under 16. Since the beginning of the current school year 19 children have sheltered in the centre and regularly attend classes at the local school.

The current project aims to improve the quality of the work both in the Centre and on the streets in terms of better advice and help on hygiene, health and schooling, to increase the number of children targeted, develop their social skills, and conduct a publicity campaign to raise public awareness of the problem. The programme involves the hiring of two full time teachers to help the children with their homework, one nurse, and two full time street staff to provide support and contact with the families and authorities.

PLACE	Burgas
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ORGANISATION	CARITAS CATHOLIC ORGANISATION, BURGAS
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ADDRESS	1 Elin Perin St • 8000 Burgas
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TEL/FAX +359-56.840 209	
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PROJECT NAME	A Better World for Homeless Children
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	NINA PIPEROVA
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The organisation has contributed to establishing two Roncalli Homes for homeless street children.

The current project targets children between 5 and 14 and aims to help them build strengths to cope with life without the support of their parents, and to protect them from drugs and crime.

The programme includes educational help (drawing, music, languages, sports) and health care, as well as hikes and games in the summer. Staff will be trained for improved interaction and conflict resolution with the children, and a team will be formed comprising a co-ordinator,, assistants, and educators.

It is hoped that these educational activities will foster their natural desire to play and learn and enable them to distinguish right from wrong.

PLACE	Haskovo
ORGANISATION	CHANCE AND PROTECTION ORGANISATION
ADDRESS	"Tsar Osvoboditel" 4, fl. 2, off 1 • 6300 Haskovo
	TEL +359-38.6 21 38 FAX +359-38.2 41 92 E-MAIL chance@mbox.digsys.bg
PROJECT NAME	Day-care Centre for Homeless Children
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MALINA SLAVOVA

The association is active in work with homeless/potentially homeless children, and also organises care for mentally handicapped children and those who are especially gifted (through scholarships).

The current project aims to establish and operate a day-care centre for homeless children providing health care, legal advice, relaxation and educational programmes to improve social integration. 35 children from the Haskovo region are already involved, and the centre is open from 8am to 4pm daily. It is located next to the Social Care Complex but needs maintenance work to ensure proper water and electricity supply. Efforts will be made to attract interest and support from local businesses and to raise public awareness.

PLACE	Sofia
ORGANISATION	THE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC BULGARIA FOUNDATION
ADDRESS	24, Venelin str. ent 2 • 1000 Sofia
	TEL/FAX +359-2.988 82 73 E-MAIL fdbfound@mail.bol.bg
PROJECT NAME	New Prospects for the Development of the 'Faith, Hope and Love'
	Centre for Homeless Children
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	NADYA NEDKOVA

The FDBF runs several programmes including some for street children, with a Childcare Centre for homeless children called 'Faith, Hope, and Love', an Information Centre on Homeless Children, Civil Society conferences, journalism prizes and Outward Bound courses for socially disadvantaged young people.

The current project concerns the Childcare Centre, which has handled over 300 children since it started at the end of 1995 and is now frequented by 30 to 40 children a day, aged between 3 and 16. A team of experts also communicates regularly with 180 children who are still living on the streets, offering free medicines and advice. The Centre itself has a staff of 14, working on education, music, arts and crafts, as well as health care. A homeless children helpline is also planned within the project, which should improve the effectiveness and scope of the work in the streets.

PLACE	Russe
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ORGANISATION	SOCIETY FOR PREVENTATIVE WORK - 'SOCIETY - X'
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ADDRESS	21 Petko D. Petkov str Ent B ap 1 • 7000 Russe
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TEL +359-82.484 661 FAX +359-82.229 612

PROJECT NAME	Socialization of Street Children
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DR SIMEON TODOROV
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The Society has been working with underprivileged children for 4 years and has experience with drug users, young prostitutes and violence.

The current project is an addition to the existing shelter for street children in Russe, run by the Bulgarian Red Cross. The programme includes outreach work, informal education in a day centre, practical support with food and clothing, and contact with families where possible.

PLACE	Burgas
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ORGANISATION	"HOPE" ASSOCIATION
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ADDRESS	20 Slivnitcha str. • 8000 Burgas
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TEL/FAX +359-56.42 281

PROJECT NAME	Knowing Child School
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	BILIANA GITAROVA
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Hope Association works in the Roma quarter of Burgas and is co-operating with the Bulgarian Red Cross in this project.

It aims to provide informal education for 24 street children, split into two age groups, in a class room/day centre. The children will spend 4 hours a day there, the 12 younger children on weekdays and the older ones over the weekend. A Roma person will act as a mediator to support the children, most of whom do not speak Bulgarian. All necessary educational materials as well as food will be provided.

PLACE	Plovdiv
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ORGANISATION	BOARD OF TRUSTEES "RADA KIRKOVITCH"
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ADDRESS	Dimiter Tchonchev 11 • 4000 Plovdiv
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	TEL +359-32.64 16 22 FAX +359.32 86 41 92
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PROJECT NAME	Creation of a home for Street Children
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ALEXANDRINA KOSTOVA
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The organisation works in Plovdiv in co-operation with the Municipality, the Regional Centre for social care, and the NGO centre. The latter started a shelter for street children funded by the PHARE programme, with the Regional Centre for social care currently covering the running costs.

The Board's project involves outreach work as an addition to the shelter, support for children outside it, equipment of the shelter (educational materials, TV etc.), relations with the parents and permanent contact with institutions who can accommodate children.

PLACE	Prague
ORGANISATION	ROZKSBEZ RIZIKA
ADDRESS	Bolzanova 1 • Prague 1
	TEL +420-2.242 344 53 FAX +420-2.242 361 62
PROJECT NAME	“Not to be the same like mother”
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MARTINA ZIKMUNDOVÁ

The organisation does outreach work and provides a counselling centre for teenage prostitutes and their children, including diagnosis and treatment of STDs.

The project targets 50 girls in these two groups and aims to re-socialise these marginalised girls and their young children.

The programme comprises three aspects: work with the mother on developing positive attitudes towards their child and advice on basic education; crisis intervention with girls on the street for the first time, with counselling, music and biblio-therapy, aimed at persuading them to return to their families or relatives; and help for homeless girls by providing temporary asylum, counselling, sport and cultural activities, and reorientation.

PLACE	Plzen
ORGANISATION	SOCIAL ASSISTANTS CENTRE
ADDRESS	Houskova 11 • 301 54 Plzen
	TEL/FAX +420-19.745 66 77
PROJECT NAME	SLEEP-STOP 1999
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	JAN DRNEK

The SAC seeks and monitors places for young people to meet, provides help in solving conflicts, educational and therapeutic services.

The current project targets a punk group of about 30 members aged between 15 and 25, who are anti-social and are often runaways. It aims to offer temporary asylum accommodation in caravans on the city outskirts, to mediate with parents where possible, and to equip and run a workshop for productive garden/farming activities.

Accommodation will be offered to those who show willingness to participate positively and stabilise their financial situation. The project hopes to help limit the isolation and social misery felt by this group.

PLACE	Pardubice
ORGANISATION	KLUB HURÁ KAMARÁD
ADDRESS	Pichlova 1339 • 530 02 Pardubice
	TEL +420-40.514 375 FAX +420-40.518 611 E-MAIL khk@pce.cz
PROJECT NAME	Children in the street - home for children in need
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DAVID MATYSEK

The Klub has been working with street children since 1994, often with Roma children, and in 1997 started to run a crisis and anti-drug centre.

The target group for the current project is about 180 boys and girls, in the 6-12 and 13-18 age ranges. The 3 main goals are: (a) the opening of a communal centre for the lower age group to distract them from criminal tendencies; (b) broadening the activities of the anti-drug centre into an 'open club' which will provide re-socialising activities; and (c) offering a temporary home and re-qualification for 15 to 18s who have abandoned school, and depend on some sort of criminal activity to survive.

PLACE	Blansko (Adamov)
ORGANISATION	REGIONAL CHARITY BLANSKO
ADDRESS	Komského 15 • 678 01 Blansko
	TEL +420-506.53 583 FAX +420-506.41 7351
PROJECT NAME	Golden Station
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MGR. LADISLAV MÜLLER

The Regional Charity offers among other things, an asylum house for mothers and children, and old people's home, a day care centre for handicapped children and a help line.

The current project targets 60-120 young people from 12 to 20 and involves the creation of a 'Golden Station' consisting of three rooms: the first for counselling sessions with a psychologist, social worker or lawyer, the second for use as a tea room and workshop and games/activity area, and the third for larger meetings including concerts and dances. The 'station' plans to open four times a week.

PLACE **Blansko**

ORGANISATION **NGO ULITA ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS **Capkova 10 • 678 01 Blansko**

TEL **+420-506.410 110** E-MAIL **mdanek@okubk.cz**

PROJECT NAME **STREET (Ulice)**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **ALES HERZOG**

The Association has worked with street children since 1995 first with outdoor activities and later with a club.

The project targets about 200 young people in the 12 to 18 age group and aims to attract them away from the streets into the safe and stimulating environment of the Club Ulita.

There are three basic aspects: 'low-threshold' activities in the club (music, video, discussion, human rights); outdoor contacts and activities including controlled pavement spraying and outdoor concerts; and social assistance including contacts with the authorities and schools, and counselling.

PLACE **Olomouc**

ORGANISATION **CADUCEUS**

ADDRESS **Karafiátová 1 • 779 00 Olomouc**

TEL/FAX **+420-603.444 474**

PROJECT NAME **Community work with threatened youth**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **MILOS KRIZEK**

The organisation already works with young people between 15 and 18 who hang out in the streets, as well as with Roma children.

The project targets 30 boys and 20 girls in this age group who have left school early, and are affected by problems such as alcohol and drug abuse. It aims to run a club for these children where they can participate in activities including artwork, concerts and excursions, and receive counselling. Training of volunteer helpers is also planned.

PLACE **Rychnov nad Kneznov**

ORGANISATION **VIA COMMODA**

ADDRESS **Národní Dum Panská 79 • 516 01 Rychnov nad Kneznov**

TEL **+420-445.531 432**

PROJECT NAME **The Way**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **MR LIBOR TICHY**

The Way carries out social work with young people offering free-time and sports activities and crisis intervention.

The project targets 25 boys and 15 girls in the 10 to 18 age group who have drug and alcohol problems or are petty criminals or vandals. The aim is to establish an informal place to meet for contact and positive activities, with the support of local structures. It should be open every day and include tea rooms, music and biblio-therapy and space for counselling by a psychologist and social workers.

PLACE **Tábor**

ORGANISATION **CHEIRON T, O.P.S**

ADDRESS **Dekanská 302 • 390 01 Tábor**

TEL/FAX **+420-361.257 624**

PROJECT NAME **The Run of Community Centre for children and youth in Tábor**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **JIRINA SVOBODOVÁ**

The organisation provides a street worker's service of information and needle exchanges as well as consultations.

The project targets 40 boys and 30 girls in the 12 to 18 age group who hang out in the streets and suffer from drug and alcohol abuse and have problems at home. It aims to create constructive alternatives for spare time activities through a venue where they can meet and participate in the centre's theatre, musical and graphic workshops, as well as in sessions with specialists on a variety of subjects including drugs, criminality, health, lifestyle. Exhibitions are planned of the resulting artwork and other achievements.

PLACE	Tallinn
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ORGANISATION	THE TALLINN CITY MISSION
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ADDRESS	Asula 11 • 0013 Tallinn
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TEL	+372-2.556 890 or +372-2.508 6355
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PROJECT NAME	From the street to the home and school
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	LAURI KURVITS
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The City Mission opened a Night Home in February 1998 for under 18s who need a place to sleep due to domestic violence and alcohol abuse.

The project aims to find solutions within the child-family-school triangle, and boost the children's self-confidence. It plans to motivate parents through family visits, help with homework, and organise free time activities such as cinema, picnics, Christmas and Easter celebrations. It also intends to provide language lessons for Russian-speaking children.

Co-operation is foreseen with the Tallinn Social Welfare Department, the Education Department and the Red Cross.

PLACE	Pärnu
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ORGANISATION	SHALOM SUPPORT CENTRE OF PÄRNU
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ADDRESS	Papiniidu 8 • 3600 Pärnu
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TEL/FAX	+372-244.24 786
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PROJECT NAME	"Risk of the Millennium"
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ANNE AAS
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The Centre has been working with street children since 1996 when they organised a summer camp.

The current project targets 10-15 children who lack parental care or are homeless, and aims to create a network of social workers and support people to work with these children and their families.

The programme involves training of staff, identifying those children in most need, organising home visits where appropriate and activities in the centre such as gym, a club, and counselling. Excursions and camps are also planned.

Through the project it is hoped to help problem families and decrease the number of street children and juvenile delinquency in Pärnu.

PLACE	Ida-Viru County
ORGANISATION	ONTIKA DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CENTER
ADDRESS	Johvi Rakvere tn. 6-B • 2045 Johvi
	TEL +372-233.70303 OR +372-233.70013 E-MAIL info@ontika.edu.ee
PROJECT NAME	Prevention and Diminishing of the Phenomenon "Street Children" in Ida-Viru County
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	REET KALDUR

The Centre was established in 1993 to facilitate the integration of the non-Estonian population into the county, as well as to provide adult education in the transition to the market economy.

The project aims to help remove the root causes for street children and bring the children back to 'normal' society. It plans to organise, together with local bodies, training courses for different institutions dealing with children as well as camps for drug-dependent and truant children. It will also offer teaching materials, and clothes, food and shelter where necessary for the really poor cases.

Close co-operation will take place with the Youth Police, the governmental regional programme "Ida-Virumaa" and the Ministry of Education for the Crime Prevention programme.

PLACE	Kohila
ORGANISATION	KOHILA LASTE PAEVAKESKUS
ADDRESS	Posti 5A • 79801 Kohila
	TEL +372-248.32411
PROJECT NAME	"To develop the Day Centre for children without supervision"
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	KRISTINA KUNTOR

There are about 850 children in Kohila under 17, some of them from poor families affected by alcoholism and neglect, and very few possibilities to spend their free time.

Vacant rooms in the Sipsik kindergarten need to be adapted for use as a day centre. The project aims to provide a place where these children can get psychological and medical counselling, as well as take part in hobby groups, discussions, cooking and computer courses, and relax through TV and videos.

PLACE	Kuressaare
ORGANISATION	KURESSAARE NOORTE HUVIKESKUS
ADDRESS	Tallinna 12 • 3300 Kuressaare
	TEL +372-245.55199 OR +372-245.33207
PROJECT NAME	“From street to room”
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FRANTESKA VAKKUM

The organisation already runs a project for 16-25s, and now plans to address children in the 10-12 age group who have problems at home or school or have broken the law.

The project aims to help these children to seek and find solutions to their problems through psychological consultation, practical training in hygiene, nutrition and household tasks, external visits, sports sessions and activity camps. Reconciliation with and reintegration in the family is also worked on.

PLACE	Paide
ORGANISATION	PAIDE LINNAVALITSUS
ADDRESS	Keskväljak 14 • 2820 Paide
	TEL +372-238.52 693
PROJECT NAME	Establishing a refuge for street children in Paide
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ARNE UUSJÄRV

The town of Paide lacks a shelter and meeting place for street children.

The project aims to establish and equip such a place of refuge, where children can stay temporarily (with their mothers where necessary), eat and study. It also includes hiring suitable staff, and visits to and counselling of parents unable to cope.

A database is to be set up which will include current and potential street children.

PLACE	Rakvere
ORGANISATION	RAKVERE PEDAGOGICAL SCHOOL
ADDRESS	Rohuaia 12 • 44308 Rakvere
	TEL +372-232.43771 FAX +372-232.44155
PROJECT NAME	The Chance for a Better Future
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	KAIE KRANICH

The local police have on their books 86 children up to 16 years of age, suffering from neglect or drunkenness, and not attending school.

The project targets 20-25 of these in the 5 to 14 age range, and will largely be based in the Church Youth House. The emphasis for the younger group (children up to 11) will be on creative games and self-help, while the older group will learn practical communication skills and participate in discussions on various topics including addictions, aimed at expressing their feelings and enhancing their self-esteem.

The expected results should be an improvement in school attendance and social skills, and less criminality.

PLACE	Tartu
ORGANISATION	SOCIAL REHABILITATION 'KESKUS OSAK TOV KRISTLIK KODU'
ADDRESS	Koidu 13 • 2400 Tartu
	TEL +372-27.472 559
PROJECT NAME	"Owl 111"
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	LY BRIKKEL

Projects Owl 1 and 11 already established contacts with about 20 adolescents roaming the streets, often in gangs.

The current project aims to reduce juvenile delinquency by a programme of cultural and educational evenings twice a week, plus regular activity and relaxation camps. A team comprising a rehabilitation worker, activity organiser and tutor together with other volunteers is being formed and trained.

The project will be considered successful if the adolescents involved start to 'go straight' and continue their studies.

PLACE	Tallinn
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ORGANISATION	YOUTH CREATIVE UNION VARIA ART
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ADDRESS	PK 3231 • 0090 Tallinn
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MOBILE PHONE	+372-5.654 739	FAX	+372-2.535 115
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PROJECT NAME	Children from the streets
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	OLEG VARES
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The project started in June 1998 working with Russian and Estonian street children aged between 8 and 15 from poor families.

The work is carried out in groups of 10 with a voluntary group leaders, and consists of psychological and educational help, discussions on topical problems including drugs and health, and excursions.

The expected result is that the children will return to school with a more positive attitude and will be less tempted to engage in crime.

PLACE **Budapest**

ORGANISATION **CHILD CRISIS FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Deres u. 11 • 1124 Budapest**

TEL **+36-1.210 25 63**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **ÉVA FLASKAY**

Child Crisis Foundation has been running the Blue Line Phone Service for 5 years (receiving about 200 calls per year) and now plans to operate a temporary home for crisis intervention.

The initial target group for the project is 16 youngsters between 10 and 18 who have run away from home due to abuse or neglect. The programme involves the renovation of the building purchased for the home, building of a team of professional helpers, and recruitment and training of 'stand-by' foster parents where appropriate. This should result in the stabilisation of the child's situation and his/her constructive orientation towards the future.

PLACE **Budapest, 15th District**

ORGANISATION **"SZALMASZAL" FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Erdökerülő út 36 • 1157 Budapest**

TEL **+36-1.418 33 49**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **BEATRIX URBÁN**

The Foundation does street social work through contact, crisis intervention, case management and addiction-related counselling.

The project targets boys and girls in the 10 to 18 age group, and involves the employment of more social workers. These are needed to reinforce both the contact group and the team providing free-time activities and assistance in managing social, psychological and family problems, using the Lansztem Street Social Care Base.

PLACE	Budapest 7/8
ORGANISATION	"MOMO" CHILD PROTECTING FOUNDATION
ADDRESS	Herzen u.6 • 1136 Budapest
	TEL +36-1.349 14 44
PROJECT NAME	
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	KOVÁCS KRISZTINA

The Foundation has been working since 1997 with children who ran away from home, and targets the 6 to 16 age group. 10 young people can be accommodated in their temporary home.

The project aims to fill a gap in the existing social care system in Budapest, and to re-integrate children in their own families through family and group therapy during the period of crisis intervention. The programme includes social work and counselling in the temporary home as well as with the families to prepare for the re-integration of the child, and to follow up afterwards.

PLACE	Budapest
ORGANISATION	"LINK" YOUTH SELF-HELPING SERVICE
ADDRESS	Zichy M. u. 14 • 1146 Budapest
	TEL +36-1.251 72 66
PROJECT NAME	
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ANDRÁS SZABÓ

LINK has been helping young people since 1992 in problem-solving and crime prevention.

The current project targets 6-7000 boys and girls in the 14-23 age group and plans to organise an information service, enlightenment programme in schools (on drugs), summer activities and a radio group. The focus is on 'converting' youngsters who come for assistance into potential age-group helpers with a positive attitude.

PLACE **Budapest**

ORGANISATION **"GAP" SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Pesti út 237 • 1173 Budapest**

TEL +36-1.258 58 95 or +36-1.258 58 96

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **CSABA KÁDAS**

GAP runs a "Protected Youth Hostel" providing accommodation for teenagers between 14 and 20 who are separated from their families.

The project aims to supply 'crutches' to this target group to help them use the information they are offered concerning children's rights, legal and illegal drugs, and disease prevention, so that they can make sensible decisions to solve their problems. The programme also involves creating, equipping and maintaining group homes.

PLACE **Budapest (Nap St estate)**

ORGANISATION **"SUN" CLUB FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Nap. u. 37 VII 21 • 1082 Budapest**

FAX +36-1.333 78 86

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **TEMPLÓM JÓZSEFNE**

The Foundation has provided a workshop/day-care since 1993 and a Youth Club for adolescents since 1996.

The project targets about 80 boys and girls between 6 and 18 who come from disadvantaged families living on the "Nap Street" housing estate and who tend to get caught up in gangs and petty crime. The objective is to involve these children in activities such sports, dance and drama, so as to develop their learning skills and prevent them sliding back into deviant behaviour.

PLACE **Eger**ORGANISATION **FOUNDATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE POOR**ADDRESS **Beke u. 60 • 3300 Eger**TEL **+36-36.431 165**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **ZSUZSANNA FARKAS**

The foundation has offered free-time and educational activities to street children since 1990, and established a temporary 'home' for children in 1998.

The project aims to provide safety and opportunities for neglected or abused children and young people, by drawing them in to the 'Youth Help House', where they can obtain educational and psychological counselling and the chance to participate in various activities to develop their skills. Other organisations such as EVAT Rt and the Family Assistance Centre are co-operating by providing financial help and space respectively.

PLACE **Kazincbarcika**ORGANISATION **"DON BOSCO" VOCATIONAL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL**ADDRESS **Illyes Gyula út 1 • 3700 Kazincbarcika**TEL **+36-48.311 574**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **LUKACS BARNABAS**

The school has been educating disadvantaged children and unemployed young people for 10 years.

The project targets 20 children in the 10-14 age group and 31 in the 14-18 group, many of them from Romany families. It aims to broaden the scope of activities provided and to promote the children's integration into society and a constructive attitude to their future.

The programme involves a mixture of educational and free-time activities, vocational guidance and social service, and will be carried out with the co-operation of the Municipality, the local government of the Romanies, and the Educational Counselling Office.

PLACE **Miskolc**

ORGANISATION **"SUNSHINE FOR LIFE" FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Baross G. út 13-15 • 3527 Miskolc**

TEL **+36-46.345 477**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **TOTH JOZSEF**

The Foundation has been dealing with street children since 1996, maintaining a Health and Mental Health Centre for the homeless.

The project targets 15 boys and 45 girls between 10 and 18 who are subject to truancy, emotional instability and drug addictions. It aims to provide daily mental and social care, preventive counselling and basic health services. The programme involves community-building and cultural activities as well as camps.

PLACE **Nyíregyháza**

ORGANISATION **"PERIFÉRIA" ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS **Arpad u. 41/b • 4400 Nyiregyhaza**

TEL **+36-20.9677 551**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **LÁSZLÓ PATTYÁN**

The association has so far worked mainly with homeless people, young prostitutes and runaway children.

The target group for the project covers 280 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18 who are either living in the streets or spend most of their time there.

The project aims to contact this target group, develop programmes of legal and psychological counselling in co-operation with the Child Welfare Service, and to provide access to free-time activities (clubs, sports etc.). The ultimate aim is to run the programme continuously with professional services.

PLACE **Budapest**

ORGANISATION **“OVEGYLET” FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Zichy Jenő u. 29 • 1066 Budapest**

TEL **+36-1.311 06 51**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **DR. PUSZTAI ILDIKO**

The Foundation has been dealing with HIV/AIDS prevention since 1994 among youngsters between 10 and 18.

The project targets boys in the above age group, and aims to provide a counselling service in Óvegylet, a daily medical consultation facility and training for more effective HIV prevention and re-integration. Expected short term results include improvements in decision-making abilities and higher self-esteem. In the longer term the establishment of a shelter is envisaged to promote re-socialisation.

PLACE **Pécs**

ORGANISATION **“MESZESI” SOCIAL FOUNDATION FOR THE SETTLEMENT**

ADDRESS **Komloi u.65 • 7629 Pecs**

TEL **+36-72.241 612**

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **TAMÁS GOLDMAN**

The Foundation has been running youth clubs for disadvantaged and endangered young people for 6 years in collaboration with the local Family Assistance and Child Welfare Service.

The project targets those in the 14 to 18 age group who are school drop-outs and subject to truancy, stealing and addictions. It aims to provide free-time activities and a healthier, addiction-free way of living through evening sports competitions such as table-tennis, combined with group counselling.

PLACE	Salgótarján
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ORGANISATION	"PLANK" YOUTH HELP ORGANISATION
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ADDRESS	Fő tér 19 • 3100 Salgotarjan
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TEL	+36-32.411 777
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PROJECT NAME	
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ZSUZSANNA ALEXI
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PLANK offers the possibility of participating in evening activities to all young people between 9 and 25 hanging around the streets.

The project targets about 44 boys and girls in this age group, and involves organising evening table-tennis and other personality-developing competitions which will dissuade them from addiction to drugs and alcohol.

In the longer term the programme should be extended throughout the county, with the support of the County Corporation and the Foundation for Crime Prevention.

PLACE	Tatabánya
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ORGANISATION	ASSOCIATION OF STREET SOCIAL ASSISTANTS
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ADDRESS	Gál Itp.405 • 2800 Tatabánya
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TEL	+36-34.311 197
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PROJECT NAME	
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	NORBERT LÖRINCZ
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The association has been helping street people (including children, drug addicts and prostitutes) for 6 years, mainly with primary needs such as clothes, food and medicine.

The current project targets 75 children and young people between 6 and 18. It plans the creation and operation of a mobile service, bringing supplies, information and counselling to 4 'hot spots' in town three times a week by caravan. In addition to this a youth office provides a permanent service involving children in clubs and activities, in which young people will be also invited to participate as age-group helpers.

PLACE	Riga
ORGANISATION	CARITAS LATVIJA AND ORPHAN CENTRE 'KOPĀ AR MUMS' (‘TOGETHER WITH US’)
ADDRESS	Krâslavas 22-15 • 1003 Riga TEL/FAX +371-7.205 235 E-MAIL rita-car@mbox.msh.lv
PROJECT NAME	Reintegration of children from dysfunctional families, teenagers and graduates from boarding school
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	SERGEJS MAKSOVVS

The Orphan Care Centre already helps to run a summer camp for 30-40 children with follow-up afterwards.

The current project aims to improve the capacity of the Centre to help children and teenagers neglected by their parents, to raise the quality of the staff and to establish a night refuge centre.

The programme involves the creation of a training room for the children to do homework, catering and washing facilities, counselling with a qualified psychologist, training on practical and language skills and guidance on job options.

PLACE	Riga
ORGANISATION	LATVIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, ST NIKOLAI RIGA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN REFUGE
ADDRESS	Lacplsa iela 70 b-4 • 1050 Riga TEL +371-7.285 050
PROJECT NAME	Programme for development of intellectual and creative capacity of street children
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DIANA VASHIANE

Currently about 25 children attend the place of refuge. The project is concerned with helping these children reintegrate into society by encouraging enrolment at school and organising creative activities. A data base on street children and their problems is to be established, and active co-operation sought with official institutions.

The programme includes equipping the office (telephone, fax, computer, printer, etc.), creating workshops in moulding, leatherwork and computer graphics, and organising an exhibition of the children's work as well as excursions.

PLACE	Talsi
ORGANISATION	TALSI CRISIS CENTRE OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN
	(TALSI EVANGELIC LUTHERAN CHURCH)
ADDRESS	Saules iela 7 • LatviaTalsi
	TEL +371-32.222 24 FAX +371-32.242 51
PROJECT NAME	Care for street children at the Talsi Crisis Centre of Children and Women
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	INTA POUDZIUNAS

The Crisis Centre offers day care and night accommodation to street children in the Talsi area with 5 paid staff and 20 volunteers.

The project aims to help the children with reintegration into society with regular care and the organisation of summer camps.

Every day up to 15 children are cared for before and after school (including receiving help with homework). A library will be established at the centre and there will also be a month devoted to charity work with a gala concert and press conference. Regular training for volunteers is also planned.

PLACE	Riga
ORGANISATION	LATVIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT (LYM) FOR LIFE FREE FROM ALCOHOL AND DRUGS
ADDRESS	Marijas iela 1-25 • 1050 Riga
	TEL/FAX +371-7.333 351
PROJECT NAME	Coffee at Night
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ENGELENA KRUMINA

LYM has organised summer camps, courses 'Action against Drugs', and numerous seminars.

The current project aims to provide social rehabilitation to street children through direct communication. It targets young people up to 18 who live in old Riga and hang out on the streets. The approach is to establish contact with each 'child' over a cup of coffee, so that problems are discussed individually. Once a week between 9pm and 1 am project members make these contacts, discuss and distribute useful information. Ultimately the children involved can help others in need. Co-operation with local NGOs is also planned.

PLACE	Viiani
ORGANISATION	VIIANI CHARITY SOCIETY "ATBALSTS"
ADDRESS	Nakotnes iela 1-24 • 4650 Viiani
	TEL +371-46. 62 153 OR +371-46. 62 973
PROJECT NAME	"Ceriba" (Faith)
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	VALENTINA VAIVADE

In Viiani (population 4000) there are 90 children growing up in dysfunctional families (where one or both parents are alcoholic) and 30 children are actually living on the streets.

The charity's day centre currently caters for 14 children in the 7-14 age group. The project aims to improve the day-centre-refuge, provide catering free of charge and establish a 'children's council' to help organise and implement educational events in the centre. It is planned to increase the capacity to 30 children and to provide facilities for games and relaxation (TV etc.).

PLACE	Ziemeli district, Riga
ORGANISATION	CHILDREN AND FAMILY RIGHTS SUPPORT CENTRE
ADDRESS	Kalngales iela 7 • 1010 Riga
	TEL +371-7.312 544 FAX +371-7.371 559
PROJECT NAME	My little native land - Ziemeli District
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	VALERIJS CEPLIS

The project aims to help reintegrate children who lack family support.

The programme targets 10-15 children and involves organising social excursions and activities to develop their interest in their immediate environment, establishing interdisciplinary links (history, geography, natural science), and carrying out social and educational work with the families concerned.

Based on the results of the local excursions a guidebook will be prepared, and regular monitoring sessions will take place between the school psychologist, social educator and activity organiser.

PLACE	Riga, Kurzeme district
ORGANISATION	CENTRE AGAINST VIOLENCE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ADDRESS	Zalves iela 124-1 • 1046 Riga
	TEL +371-7.012 363
PROJECT NAME	Interdisciplinary approach to solution of the street children problem
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	LAILA BALODE

The Centre considers that the reasons for child criminality are so varied that analysing just one of them will not solve the problem, so they favour teamwork among different professionals (social workers, psychologists, doctors etc.) to develop a common work strategy.

The current project aims to create a model for teamwork adapted to the local situation, and has selected the Kurzeme district of Riga for its implementation. The objective is to promote the integration of street children into society and to establish, in the second year, a support centre for them.

Initially the target group will be those children recorded on the police register, children whose aggressive behaviour is often due to violence at home. The programme involves contact at the street level, the collection of information on their problems and potential solutions and the preparation of guidelines on teamwork for use by other professionals in the future.

PLACE	Riga
ORGANISATION	SOCIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT FOUNDATION
ADDRESS	EiBenijas St. • 1007 Riga
	TEL +371-7.371 346 FAX +371-245 89 37 E-MAIL attistib@com.latnet.lv
PROJECT NAME	Educational programme for work with street children
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	INGA LUKASINSKA

The project objective is to improve and develop the knowledge and skills of experts and volunteers involved in work with street children, in order to combat further increases in their numbers.

The programme involves: organising 24 one-day training workshops (14 in Riga, 10 elsewhere) for the staff of day centres, children's homes, municipal police and school teachers (total 480 participants) developing a study plan for social science students; presenting a course of lectures at 3 higher education establishments; and publishing new materials used in the workshops.

PLACE	Vilnius (Rudininku)
ORGANISATION	CHURCH OF ALL THE SAINTS IN VILNIUS
ADDRESS	Rudininku 20-1 • 2001Vilnius
	TEL +370-2.313890 or +370-2.617434 FAX +370-2.617414
PROJECT NAME	Street children - courtyard children
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	VIDA MARIJA POSKIENE

The organisation has been working continuously with street children for 2 years.

The project targets both children in the 7-16 age group who have abandoned school and show delinquent behaviour, and children between 6 and 14 from high risk problem families who are in danger of going the same way.

The project is essentially a system of social, pedagogical and psychological support for both the children and other family members. It involves regular group work with the parents and with the children (2 groups of 8 once a week), plus excursions and events (e.g. Easter). All children will also be able to participate in the ABC programme offering pedagogical help and a day centre.

The expected result, based on previous experience, is a high rate of return to school, and improved family relationships.

PLACE	Vilnius (Totoriu)
ORGANISATION	LITHUANIAN CHILD'S RIGHT PROTECTION ORGANISATION
	"SAVE THE CHILDREN"
ADDRESS	Otoriu 15 • 2001Vilnius
	TEL +370-2.610815 FAX +370-2.610837 E-MAIL gelbvaik@post.omnitel.net
PROJECT NAME	Street sociologist training
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	AURELIJA OKUNSKIENE

Since 1998 the organisation has been working with 6 children between 14 and 17 giving them interim care, but found it difficult to keep them continually motivated.

The project specifically targets 10 street children subject to drugs and petty crime but is also meant to be a model for the whole country and to attract the attention of the media. It aims to make 'street sociologists' out of the children through regular sessions and counselling with psychologists and social workers, so that they can not only return to school but help their friends and other children in the context of the Street Children Centre. Contests, play-acting and practical workshops are planned as additional activities.

PLACE	Vilnius (M.Paco)
ORGANISATION	MONASTERY OF ST JOHN'S CONGREGATION
ADDRESS	M.Paco 4/1 • 2055 Vilnius
	TEL +370-2.744415 FAX +370-2.618270 E-MAIL snj@puni.osf.lt
PROJECT NAME	Children of St Jean
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	GREGOIRE PLUS

The organisation opened a night-stay home and observation centre in 1997.

The current project targets boys under 14 who have abandoned school and suffer from lack of hygiene, extortion by older boys, loneliness and drug abuse.

It aims to get them off the street and back to school and their families where possible. Four stages are planned: contacts in the street, use of the night-stay home, use of the observation centre as soon as they have decided to quit street life, and the 'family fireplace' for those who cannot go back to their families but want to return to school.

PLACE	Kaunas
ORGANISATION	INSTITUTION OF MARIE CHRISTIAN SUPPORT DAUGHTERS
ADDRESS	Mariu 20 • 3023 Kaunas
	TEL +370-27.737278 FAX +370-27.737706
PROJECT NAME	The Day Centre of Palemonas
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	LIUCIJA-AUSRA GRYBAITE

The Institution founded the Day Centre two years ago and targets children from unstable families who do not attend school regularly and are tempted by petty crime.

The project aims to continue with the work of feeding and caring for these children and helping to develop their social skills and values. The programme of the Day Centre includes daily homework and games, weekly communication and computer training, music and films, excursions and celebration of religious festivals.

Experience so far shows that more children will be stabilised and return to school to achieve better results.

PLACE	Klaipeda
ORGANISATION	FOUNDATION 'CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR YOUTH' IN KLAIPEDA
ADDRESS	Smilteles 27 • 5815 Klaipeda
	TEL +370-26.360411 FAX +370-26.360412 E-MAIL dpjc@dpjc.klp.osf.lt
PROJECT NAME	Crime Prevention Project for 'Street Children' of the city of Klaipeda
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	INGA DAUGVILAITE

The Foundation has been active for four years with a preventive programme with risk group children and teenagers who have committed crimes or are from foster homes.

The project aims to continue this and also create a new group for younger street children who risk going the same way. Volunteer youth leaders of over 16 will be trained to work with the children in summer camps, and a specialist from the USA will assist in a programme addressed to parents of the 6 to 12 age group, encouraging a more positive and healthy approach. There will be a seminar for pedagogues, police officers and youth leaders and education about AIDS.

The project will be concentrated in the poor Zvejybos district of Klaipeda, where there are 3 secondary schools, but will be open to youths from the whole town.

PLACE	Skopje
ORGANISATION	ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC. OF MACEDONIA (AWORM)
ADDRESS	"Vasil Gorgov", P.O. Box 571 • 91 000 Skopje TEL/FAX +389-91.126 185 or +389-91.110 162 E-MAIL uworm@soros.org.mk
PROJECT NAME	"Education of Street Children's Mothers"
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	SAVKA TODOROVSKA

AWORM is a network of women's organisations who work for the interests of women and their children in both material and cultural ways. As regards street children their efforts have so far been in the supply of food and clothing.

The current project targets the mothers of children who are on the streets begging, stealing and sometimes involved in prostitution. It aims to provide them with the necessary preparation to facilitate return to a 'normal' life.

The programme will last for 6 months and involve weekly meetings of mothers and children who are mis-treated, during which didactic materials developed by experts will be used to educate them and raise their awareness of the problems and solutions available to them.

PLACE	Skopje
ORGANISATION	ROMA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION "ESMA"
ADDRESS	"Metodija Mitevski" b.b. • Local Community "Rajko Zinzifov" • 91 000 Skopje TEL/FAX +389-91.621 031
PROJECT NAME	"Education, Games and New Opportunities"
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	KJMET AMET AND KEVSERA MEMEDOVA

The Association's basic aim is the emancipation of the Roma woman and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

The project targets about 70 boys and 30 girls aged between 8 and 16 in the Suto Orizi settlement and the suburb of Topaana, where these children often miss or leave school and get into drugs and delinquency due to their family's economic hardship.

Three phases are planned: preparation, including selection of 40 'high risk' cases from the target group and adaptation of the ESMA premises for meetings/counselling; sessions with a psychologist including games and discussions around conflict situations, help with school work, plus recreational and cultural activities and trips; and regular evaluation of the reintegration process.

PLACE	Bitola
ORGANISATION	"FELIKS"
ADDRESS	"Josif Hristovski" 4/4 • 97 000 Bitola
	TEL +389-97.222 874 FAX +389-97.252 600
PROJECT NAME	"Street Children/ Children on the streets in Bitola"
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DR DIJANA GORGIEVSKA

This newly formed organisation plans to target about 20 street children between 7 and 18 in the 'Bair' area of the city, affected by poor health and delinquency.

The project involves making initial contact with these children and the setting up and running of a day centre to get them off the streets and help them with school books, better hygiene, food, and social and cultural activities. Efforts will also be made to raise the awareness of governmental and other public institutions of the need for more lasting solutions to the problem of street children.

PLACE	Skopje/'Jane Sandanski'
ORGANISATION	JOURNALISTS FOR CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ECOLOGY IN MACEDONIA
ADDRESS	"Jane Sandanski" 86-2/15 • 91 000 Skopje
	TEL/FAX +389-91.446 135 E-MAIL jew@yadoo.com
PROJECT NAME	Children's Hope
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	NATASA DOKOVSKA

This newly formed organisation consists mostly of journalists but also doctors, psychologists and educators. Its target groups are street children and those subject to abuse and addictions, as well as women victims of violence.

The current project is focused on 25 children between 6 and 14, most of them from Roma families, who rarely attend school and are neglected by their parents.

The programme involves identifying the children, informing them about a new centre including a 'tea kitchen' where they can get a hot meal and some clothes, and facilities for preparation for school and medical attention where necessary. Eventually it is hoped to develop the centre into a home for street children, and after the first year to publish the first book on the condition of street children in Macedonia.

PLACE	Poznan
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ORGANISATION	MUTUAL HELP FOUNDATION "BARKA"
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ADDRESS	ul. Bydgoska 6/7 • 61 123 Posnan
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	TEL +48-61.877 2265 or +48-61.877 0506 FAX +48-61.877 4823
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PROJECT NAME	Children in "Barka"
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	BEATA BENYSKIEWICZ
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The Foundation is active in social integration, ecology and educational courses for the poor and unemployed.

Three groups of children are targeted under the project: those already living in hostels (about 20), those whose parents participate in the Danish-sponsored Koefoed School programme to prevent social marginalisation (about 15), and a further 15 from local rural communities.

The programme includes the running of a kindergarten, regular therapy and education for parents in child-care, activities and addiction prevention, and 'volunteers' camps.

PLACE	Poznan
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ORGANISATION	NOMADIC UNIVERSITY OF IMAGINATION OF STREETS
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	AND GARDENS - NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION
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ADDRESS	ul. Grochowska 129 m. 15 • 60 336 Poznan
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	TEL/FAX +48-61.853 5976
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PROJECT NAME	"A Child Entering the House, Entering the World"
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MARIA LIBUDZISZ
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This organisation concentrates on cultural, artistic and ecological education, and its project is aimed at the emotional and physical well-being of children at risk due to poverty and neglect, by involving them in activities such as environmental protection.

The group targeted consists of 80 children between 5 and 16, who spend most of their time on the streets to escape from domestic abuse and violence. The programme includes the creation of a friendly landscape of streets and people called "Small Community of Feelings", and educational sessions instilling a sense of values and responsibility into the children.

PLACE **Bielsko-BiaZa**

ORGANISATION **PSYCHO-PREVENTION ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS Department in Bielsko-BiaZa • Plac.Fabryczny 1 • 43 300 Kinga

TEL +48-33.12 5415

PROJECT NAME

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **SOWINSKA-KLIMA**

The association concentrates on socio-therapy for children from problem families and the families themselves, as well as programmes of addiction prevention.

The project targets 20 children between 7 and 15, together with their families affected by alcoholism and violence. The programme involves running support groups for parents, a crisis hostel with socio-therapeutic sessions, and the establishment of substitute families where appropriate.

PLACE **Cracow**

ORGANISATION **YOUTH CARE LEAGUE - "SALTROM"**

ADDRESS ul. Rozana 5 • 30 305 Cracow

TEL +48-12.267 4900 or +48-12.267 7630 FAX +48-12.267 0763

PROJECT NAME **"New countenance - Saltrom 2000"**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **REV. DARIUSZ PORZUCEK**

Youth Care League Saltrom is concerned with the prevention of drug addiction, reintegration of the socially maladjusted, and the social and religious development of young people in general.

The project targets children and youths in the Cracow and surrounding area from the 10-20 age group, who are exposed to drugs, are homeless or relying on social security, or are from poor or dysfunctional families.

The programme involves the establishment of a Centre for Counselling and Re-Socialisation for teenagers, the operation of a day centre providing food and extra-curricular activities (including a yacht club), a magazine and a drama group, and a hostel for street children. The project aims to occupy the children's time productively and increase their social consciousness, while at the same time alleviating problems of undernourishment and brutality.

PLACE **Zielona Gora**

ORGANISATION **FAMILY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS **Plac Slowianski 6 • Budynek C • 65 096 Zielona Gora**

TEL **+48-68.20 2205**

PROJECT NAME **Activities with Children and Teenagers Providing Sexual
Services in the German-Polish Borderland**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **ZBIGNIEW IZDEBSKI**

The organisation aims to educate young people and families on 'responsible' sex and parenthood, birth control and contraception, and to restrict the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. In the German-Polish borderland several nationalities are caught up in prostitution as illegal employment, as it is easier to find such opportunities there.

The project targets young prostitutes as well as teenagers from local schools.

The programme includes initial contact with the targets, meetings to demonstrate the problem and possible solutions (involving social workers, teachers, health care staff etc), negotiations with the families of the children, and training of volunteer workers, who are mostly students of the Pedagogy and Social Policy Institute.

The project aims to restrict the number of child prostitutes and significantly increase the level of AIDS awareness and community responsibility.

PLACE **Gdansk**

ORGANISATION **"ANT-HILL" SOCIETY OF SOCIAL PREVENTION**

ADDRESS **ul. Agrama 2 • 80 298 Gdansk**

TEL/FAX **+48-56.349 4690**

PROJECT NAME **"Ant-hill" Club of Social Prevention**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **ANNA DOLECKA**

The organisation is involved in health promotion, addiction prevention, education, counselling and youth development.

The project targets children and young people from the poorest and most problematic families in the Gdansk-Wrzeszcz district, and aims to help them develop productive activities in their spare time and improve their mental and physical health. The programme includes regular sessions on self-help, health and sex education, individual therapy at the Youth therapy Centre, excursions and camps.

PLACE	Czestochowa
ORGANISATION	THERAPEUTIC DAY CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH HOUSE OF PRINCE MONAR ASSOCIATION
ADDRESS	Al. Wolnosci 44 • 42 200 Czestochova TEL/FAX +48-34.324 3256
PROJECT NAME	Extension of "the HELPERS" programme with regard to street therapists work
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TOMASZ KOZLOWSKI

The "House of Prince" Day Centre was created on the basis of 'environmental' street work and is located in a tenement in the centre of Czestochowa, where there are many families suffering from unemployment, delinquency and alcoholism.

About 70 children aged between 5 and 17 currently attend the centre, and the project aims to double this number. The programme includes a daily street 'service', the organisation of daily activities (gym, art and music workshops, a housekeeping course etc.) in the centre, and winter and summer camps. Eventually the hope is to create a network of day centres in different parts of the city, co-operating together.

PLACE	Warsaw
ORGANISATION	EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ANIMATION SOCIETY, NP DISTRICT
ADDRESS	ul. Gibalskiego 8/1 • 01 190 Warsaw TEL +48-228.632 7694
PROJECT NAME	Education and Social Animation in an Open Environment of the North Praga District
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	IRENA CHMIEL

As its name implies, this organisation focuses on the promotion of social and civic attitudes among street children, and addiction prevention.

The target group for their project is about 50 children from 'problem' families affected by alcoholism, unemployment, disease and neglect. The programme includes summer and winter holiday weeks, therapeutic trips, and individual therapy, and aims to improve interpersonal contacts and self-esteem among the children as well as to facilitate their re-integration in existing education and care systems.

PLACE	Warsaw
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ORGANISATION	POLISH PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION
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ADDRESS	ul. Kaliska 1 m. 20 • 02 316 Warsaw
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TEL/FAX	+48-228.822 74 77
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PROJECT NAME	“Meeting on a street”
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ANNA CIUPA
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This association provides psychological training for people working with children and teenagers, and runs training courses for the latter.

The project targets children hanging about in areas of prostitution in Warsaw such as Trzech Square and the Central Railway Station. Often the children are there to escape problems at home and find shelter, and sometimes earnings, out of reach of the police.

The project aims to educate these children on their rights and reduce the frequency of situations resulting in their 'escape' and exploitation. It involves training volunteers to 'patrol' the areas concerned, persuade the children to attend centres for discussion and activities, and creating a brochure on their rights.

PLACE	Warsaw
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ORGANISATION	SOCIAL FOUNDATION OF POWISLE IN WARSAW
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ADDRESS	ul. Molkotowska 55 • 00 542 Warsaw
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TEL	+48-228. 625 7922
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PROJECT NAME	Psychological Prevention Project in Local Area - Crisis Care Centre
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ANNA ORZECOWSKA
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The Foundation focuses on treatment and social rehabilitation of young people with problems, and the mentally ill.

The project is located in an area of about 50,000 inhabitants containing areas of extreme poverty and inadequate living conditions. It is aimed at children, youths and families threatened by demoralisation, crime and addiction, and involves the creation of a Crisis Hostel where 15 or 20 children at a time can stay for a few weeks or even months while the problems in their family (conflicts, violence, alcoholism etc) are resolved with the help of therapists.

The programme includes finding and equipping a location for the Hostel, recruitment and training of staff, and intensive therapeutic work with the families - resulting in a reduction of the number of children sent to reformatory schools, and an improvement of family ties and educational skills.

PLACE **Wejherowo**

ORGANISATION **FRIENDS OF FAMILY ASSOCIATION IN WEJHEROWO**

ADDRESS **ul. Dworcowa 12 • 84 200 Wejherowo**

TEL **+48-58.672 4591**

PROJECT NAME **Dirty Yards - Psychological and Educational Support for children
and Youth, Their Families and Educators in Wejherowo**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **ZOFIA KUSTERSKA**

This organisation manages a day centre for street children providing educational and psychological help, and a separate centre for prevention and solutions of alcohol-related problems. It has shown positive results since it opened in 1992.

The target group for the project is about 300 children of whom over half require special care, and many have drug or alcohol problems. The programme involves weekly sessions of one hour or more on the development of cultural interests, physical education and sports, the family unit and psychological education to increase sensitivity to relationships, problem-solving and social responsibility.

PLACE **Starachowice**

ORGANISATION **TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION "HEALTHY SCHOOL"**

ADDRESS **ul.Konstytucji 3 Maja 15 • 27 200 Starachowice**

TEL **+48-47.274 8056** FAX **+48-47.274 7478**

PROJECT NAME **"Street Children"**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **GRAZYNA JABLONSKA**

The organisation focuses on training of teachers, running spare-time activities for children/teenagers (with day centres, camps etc), and providing psychological consultation.

The project involves two specific areas, Poludnie and Orlowo, originally developed to house workers at the Star car plant before it fell on hard times. The main problems among children and teenagers in these areas are alcoholism, petty theft and physical violence.

The team includes 4 educators aiming to establish effective contact with groups of street children, and to persuade them to join the programme and learn to use their spare time more interestingly. Efforts are also planned to gain the co-operation of parents, and the support of local communities to secure the use of day centres and playgrounds.

PLACE **Bucharest**

ORGANISATION **PHILIP'S HOUSE FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Str. Petre Tunsu nr 9 • sector 5 • Bucharest**

TEL/FAX **+40-1.423 28 80** E-MAIL **phillip@dial.kappa.ro**

PROJECT NAME **"The Right to Learn"**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **OVIDIU FILIPESCU**

"Caminul" Philip Foundation operates in the poor Ferentari area where many parents do not have enough resources to maintain their children at school.

The project aims to ensure free access for about 30 street children to some form of schooling, and to provide material support and counselling to poor parents of street children.

It involves identification and selection of 'problem' families, preparing support plans for each child, collaboration with the local school No. 148 for inclusion of the children in classes, and after-school care in the Foundation's social service centre, for homework and recreational activities.

The Foundation collaborates with the "Casa Deschisa" Association and the "Robin Hood" placement centre.

PLACE **Bucharest**

ORGANISATION **FAMILY AND CHILD PROTECTION FOUNDATION**

ADDRESS **Str. Pericle Gheorghiu nr 15 • Sector 5 Bucharest**

TEL **+40-1.336 63 53** FAX **+40-1.337 48 63** E-MAIL **foc@dial.kappa.ro**

PROJECT NAME **Reintegration of street children**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **CATALIN GANEA**

The Foundation plans to establish a permanent service working to prevent street children from abandoning school and to provide conditions for social reintegration in the family, school and work.

The project targets street children between 9 and 16, who have not yet completely severed the links with their family. The programme includes contacting children in difficulty, evaluation of family resources, establishment of an individualised intervention plan leading to a 'social contract' with the beneficiaries, and encouragement of more autonomy. School results will be continuously monitored and discussed with each child with a view to achieving full reintegration.

PLACE **Bucharest**

ORGANISATION **THE OPEN HOUSE**

ADDRESS **c/o FONPC • Str Bradetului nr 24 • Sector 4 Bucharest**

TEL/FAX **+40-1.332 20 00** E-MAIL **casadesc@dial.koppa.ro**

PROJECT NAME **Big-Berceni**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **CLAUDIA LUCA**

The organisation already runs the "Casa Deschisa" Day Centre targeting children within the 8-18 age group.

The project has two aspects: support for continued activities in this day-centre, and assistance to other institutions interested in establishing day centres for street children. Its objective is preparation for social, family and educational reintegration, and assistance to children placed in institutions until reintegration is achieved. The programme involves educational games and responsibility-building tasks in the day centre, and moral support for children who have left the centre to family, school or work situations. To assist other interested institutions, printed material on the methods and techniques of Casa Deschisa are planned to be produced and disseminated, as are meetings for information exchange.

The Open House collaborates with several non-governmental institutions as well as the local Police Department and Dept for Crime Prevention.

PLACE **Bucharest**

ORGANISATION **SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION ASSOCIATION-ASIS**

ADDRESS **Calea Calarasilor nr 4 • Bl. 105 A sc. 4, et.1, ap.94 • Sector 3 Bucharest**

TEL/FAX **+40-1.323 38 55** E-MAIL **asis@dial.kappa.ro**

PROJECT NAME **Cultural support for the social integration of underprivileged teenagers and youth**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON **RODICA GREGORIAN**

ASIS has recently established a residential centre to provide the opportunity for social reintegration for disadvantaged youth.

The project aims to ensure a rapid, full and stable socio-professional reintegration for at least 20 disadvantaged teenagers, with priority given to boys, who form the majority of those in the street and are considered to be more capable of sustaining a family later.

The approach used is a step-by step method, from observation to conversation, role-playing, group discussions and progressive delegation of authority. The ultimate objective is to help 20 teenagers every year in this way.

Financial support has been promised by several organisations including Child Care Romania-UK and Child Hope UK.

PLACE	Nitra - Stitáre
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ORGANISATION	SLONAD
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ADDRESS	Fabryho 5 • 951 50 Nitra
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TEL +421-87.65190	MOBILE PHONE +421-903.506 296	FAX +421-87.65190
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PROJECT NAME	Children in Crisis Centre
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RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MARIANA KOVÁCOVÁ/VIOLA DROZDOVÁ
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SLONAD (Slovak Children Hope) was formed in 1994 to help neglected and abused children, mainly through Children Telephone Line of Salvation (over 180 calls a day) and a Children Crisis Centre in Banská Bystrica.

The aim of the project is to open and run a crisis centre in Nitra with a specialist team of a psychologist, social worker, doctor, policeman to counsel the children, avoid repeated damage and prepare them for return to school and a better family life. Sleeping accommodation is planned for up to 12 children and where necessary, their mothers.

PLACE	Ziar nad Hronom, Levice, Stáry Tekov, Spišská Nová Ves
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ORGANISATION	SCHOOL WIDE OPEN
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ADDRESS	Moyses 12 • 965 01 Ziar nad Hronom
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TEL +421-857.6723137 or +421-857.6716453	FAX +421-857.6723137
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E-MAIL nsd@bb.telecom.sk

PROJECT NAME	"Let's start together"
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RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	VINCENT CERVEN/JOZEF BREZOVSKY
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The organisation helps to develop children's potential.

The current project aims to help integrate street children into the formal school system, and to form model centres for monitoring their real needs and providing appropriate stimuli for development.

Two age groups are involved:

- 5-6 facilitating their start in primary school, introduction to reading/writing/math's etc, plus various activities (music, painting...)
- 6-15 reintegrating into the school system through tutoring support group, counselling for addiction prevention, and regular consultations with parents.

PLACE	Roznava Region
ORGANISATION	SALESIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION - ROZNAVA
ADDRESS	Zdruzenie saleziánskej mládeže • Námestie baníkov 30 • 048 01 Roznava
	TEL +421-942.215 18 or +421-903.613 850 E-MAIL incentrum@mail.pvt.sk
PROJECT NAME	Creation of crisis centre for street children
RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	MÁRIA FÁBIANOVÁ/IVAN TRUNKO

The organisation has worked with street children for 6 years providing after-school activities and summer camps which also cater for handicapped children.

The project targets a total of 67 street children from the Roznava region, mostly from the endangered housing estate JUH, suffering from the effects of unemployment, addictions and neglect by the parents.

It involves the creation and equipping of a crisis centre where these children can meet for counselling and productive activities, and also contact with the parents to promote healthier families.

PLACE	Bardejov
ORGANISATION	SALESIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION - DOM
ADDRESS	Kellerova 7 • 085 01 Bardejov
	TEL +421-935.727 401 FAX +421-935.722 678 E-MAIL mikam_97@yahoo.com
PROJECT NAME	Help for street children
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ING. MGR.PETER BESENYEI

The Youth Association targets mainly Romany children who do not attend school, but also young couples, married and unmarried, who are unemployed.

A youth centre is already operating in the village of Postárka where it promotes the development of young people and provides them with education.

PLACE	Radosina
ORGANISATION	QUEEN OF PEACE COMMUNITY
ADDRESS	Piest'anská 11/18 manor house • 956 05 Radosina
	TEL/FAX +421-815.981 02
PROJECT NAME	Bridges
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MGR. BRANKO TUPY

The organisation provides basic needs such as food, accommodation, health care as well as some educational help to boys who hang around the streets for lack of family security or stability.

The project targets a total of 38 boys aged between 18 and 22, of whom 18 are located in the institution 'Family of Good Hope', and where possible, their parents.

The programme involves counselling and caring for boys who have often left reform schools after compulsory education, and helping them find suitable employment.

PLACE	Bratislava
ORGANISATION	CIVIC ASSOCIATION PRIMA
ADDRESS	Bagarova 22 • 841 01 Bratislava
	TEL +421-7.767 838 FAX +421-7.5333 249 E-MAIL monika.ciutti@fad.phare.sk
PROJECT NAME	Vagón - Contact Centre for hidden population of drug users
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MGR. MAREK MRACKA

PRIMA, a non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation formed in July 1998, plans to open and operate the first institution in Slovakia concentrating on the hidden population of drug addicts.

The centre will open daily from 10am to 10pm and provide consultancy on legal, health and socio-psychological matters, information on the risks of drug addictions and how to alleviate them, plus basic health care, food and vitamin service, and needle/injection changes.

PLACE	Banská Bystrica
ORGANISATION	HOPE FOR CHILDREN
ADDRESS	P.O. Box 12 • 974 11 Banská Bystrica
	TEL +421-88.413 06 98 FAX +421-88.411 60 39
PROJECT NAME	Children in streets
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STEFAN NÁTHER

The organisation runs regular activities for children during the school year and the holidays. It focuses on socially weaker families mainly of Romany origin but the more specific target group is 15 children of whom 11 do not attend school at all and 4 attend irregularly.

The programme involves the placing of these children into a daily crisis centre on weekdays where they will receive help with reading, maths etc. as well as counselling on hygiene and domestic problems. Meetings with their parents will also be arranged together with the psychologist to discuss topics such as the child and school.

PLACE	Kosice
ORGANISATION	CHARITY OF ARCHDIOCESE KOSICE
ADDRESS	ADCH, Nám. Kosických Mucenikov c.1 • 040 22 Kosice
	TEL +421-95.743 983 FAX +421-95.743 901 E-MAIL adch-ke@dodo.sk
PROJECT NAME	Crisis Centre Tahanovce
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MGR.ING.JÁN JELÍNEK

The charity runs a network of care service and social centres for young people, the elderly, and dependent people.

The project targets street children in the endangered housing estate of Tahanovce, and aims to provide a crisis centre offering accommodation (for urgent cases), socio-psychological counselling and recreational activities for children of all ages.

The programme involves the creation of peer groups and tutor groups for educational, cultural and sporting activities and meetings. It also plans to create a club for younger children to help their reintegration in the school system, as well as groups for addicts, and for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

ANNEXE: THE PARTNERS

MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

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OPEN ESTONIA FOUNDATION

Open Estonia Foundation provided the financial means for the programme together with the King Baudouin Foundation.

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