

Country Fact sheet 2021

Romania



Romania has an ambitious agenda to close down (or be in the process of closure) of all 'old-type' institutions by January 2021¹. Given that there are currently 166 'old-type institutions'² with 4,895 children³, this causes concern with regards to the preparation of the children and the delivery of sufficient new services.

¹https://mmuncil.ro/33/images/Documente/MMJS/Transparenta-decizionala/Expunere_motiv_modific_Lege_272_protectia_copii_18122018.pdf

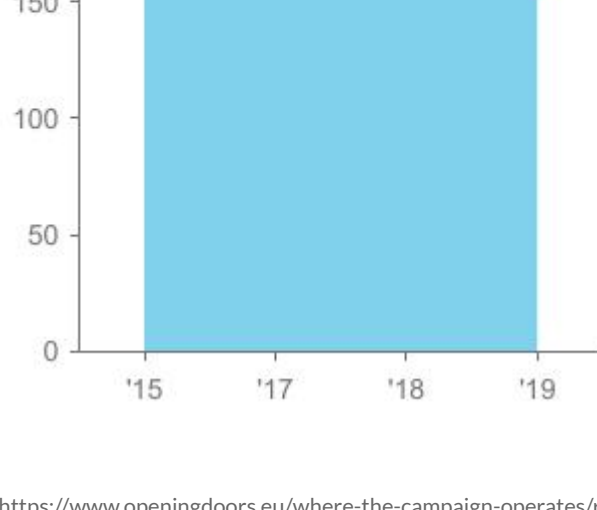
²<http://mmuncil.ro/33/index.php/ra/transparenta/proiecte-in-dezbatare/A265-2016-01-28-hg-anpd-pin>

³http://www.mmuncil.ro/33/images/buletin_statistic/copii_L_2020.pdf

Total children in institutions



Number of institutions for children



data from <https://www.openingdoors.eu/where-the-campaign-operates/romania/> data from <https://www.openingdoors.eu/where-the-campaign-operates/romania/>



Flexibly allocating EU funds earmarked for the closure of old-type institutions, with calls that are simplified and made more accessible for applicants, keeping in mind the specific services that already exist at community levels and eliminating the obligation of creating services that might be redundant in some areas.



The closure of institutions for children with disabilities requires planning to assess their individual circumstances and follow up, to ensure that their needs are met within their communities, and their families have access to appropriate support and services.

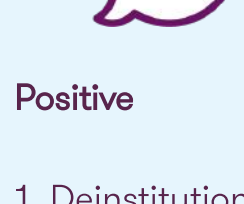
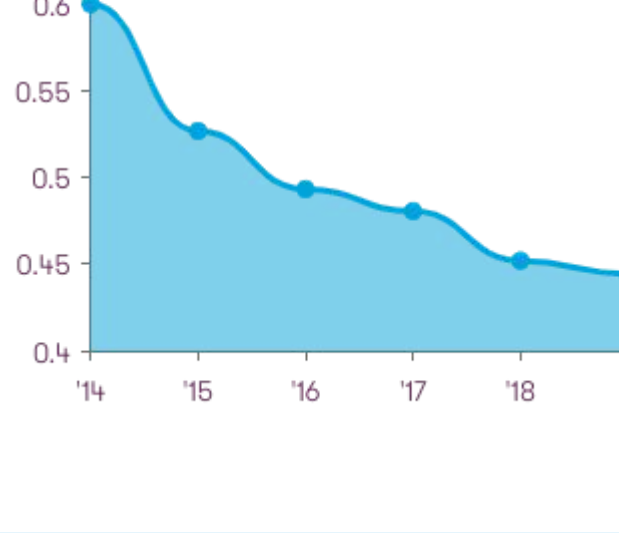


In 2019, children with disabilities account for around 50% of all children remaining in 'old type' institutions, while only about 20% of children in foster care have some form of disability.

Children with disabilities in public residential care



% of children in 'old type institutions' with disabilities



Latest developments

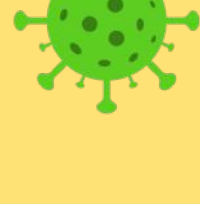
Positive

- Deinstitutionalisation and transition of children into alternative care are specifically mentioned in the Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights; while the Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2014-2020 mentions support for young adults leaving state care;
- The legal framework on child protection has been amended in 2019 and 2020 in order to reflect (inter alia) the realities of the child protection system and the solutions for the children in state care;
- The Government has launched a series of EU-funded calls aimed to close down the old-type institutions and support children and young adults to transition into families or family-based alternative services, and others aimed to support the prevention of separation of children from their families and the transition of young care-leavers into independent living.

Negative

- The Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights was not implemented as expected, due to the lack of funds (partly), lack of methodology and lack of supporting legal framework (partly);
- The fact that the Romanian legal framework regarding child protection was amended, but its enforcements and application are still difficult, due (inter alia) to the lack of cooperation between stakeholders, lack of funds and lack of staff;
- The calls launched by the Romanian Government on deinstitutionalisation have not been as successful as expected, due to bureaucracy, lack of clear eligible costs and to other requirements that were difficult to meet.

Effect of the pandemic on children in Romania



The COVID-19 pandemic put the Romanian health system under tremendous pressure, with hospitals almost full and ICUs that were almost full as well, making the access of vulnerable persons even more difficult to medical services and care.

The pandemic has led to the closure of schools and educational facilities and most of the educational programmes have moved into the online/virtual environment, making the access of vulnerable children to education extremely difficult, if not impossible.

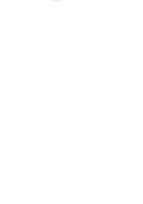
We call on the government:



Strengthening institutional mechanisms aimed to supervise and support the way the children's rights are observed at national level, including through the new Child Protection Strategy, which will be enforced after 2020.



Continuing to improve the legal framework in order to ensure that there is an updated legal framework, in accordance with the international conventions, treaties and recommendations, which guarantees the observance of children's rights.



To nominate a national Child Guarantee Coordinator and implement the EU's child Guarantee aimed at reducing poverty and advancing social inclusion and equality.

We call on the European Union to:



Direct EU funds towards programmes aimed to reduce poverty by integrated intervention which provide support for housing, education and access to labor market, with a focus on addressing the individual needs of families and providing support according to those individual needs.

Hope and Homes for Children Romania

2A București Blvd.
Baia Mare, 430281 Maramureș



www.hopeandhomesforchildren.ro/



office@hopeandhomes.ro



<https://www.instagram.com/hopeandhomesromania/>



[+40] 262 227 419

Data disclaimer

The data sets on children in care, presented in this publication is provided by Hope and Homes for Children. The data is primarily sourced from official state sources. The situation with children in alternative care is dynamic, and changes may not necessarily be captured in present data set. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented herein compiled. However, Hope and Homes for Children provides this data as the guidance only and cannot guarantee its accuracy, timeliness or completeness. Nor can we be held responsible for its use.

Hope and Homes for Children - Head Office: East Cliffe, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 4LZ, UK
Tel: +40 262 227 419 office@hopeandhomes.org www.hopeandhomes.org
Hope and Homes for Children - EU liaison office: Mundoj, Rue de l'Industrie 10, Brussels, 1000, Belgium
Hope and Homes for Children is on the Transparency Register of the European Union, Identification number in the register: 035163533684-92
Organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2019.
© Hope and Homes for Children 2020. Registered charity. No 1089490