

## ADDITIONAL NOTE FROM THE COMMISSION SERVICES TO THE REPLY TO PETITION No 1109/2010

**Here below the projects mentioned in the petition N° 1109/2010 by Simone Eiler for which Ai.Bi. – Associazione Amici dei Bambini - has received EU funds.**

N.B.: The project "Water is life" was not co-financed by EU funds.

### 1. Prevention and fight against child trafficking in Albania in the form of illegal and commercial adoption

Title of the Project	<b>Prevention and fight against child trafficking in Albania in the form of illegal and commercial adoption</b>				
N° of reference:	B7-701/2001/4000	DG & Financial Program		<b>EuropeAid - EIDHR (European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights)</b>	
Cost of the Project	68.095,00 €	Amount of EU contribution	50.000,00 €	Location of the Project	Tirana, Albania
Duration of the action	18 months		Dates of Implementation		From 01/06/2004 to 01/06/2005 (closed)
Objectives of the action	The overall objective of the project was to promote and protect children rights in Albania, as defined by the UN's Convention on Children Rights, focusing mainly on the fight against child trafficking in the form of <i>commercial adoption</i> . According to UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, OSCE-ODIHR, Terre des Hommes, in fact <i>commercial adoption</i> represents one of the three main channels of child trafficking in the Region. It means basically that the adoption procedure has been completed on a legal basis, but accompanied by bad practices, such as excessive fees for lawyers, compulsory gift and donations, financial advantages for the mother, etc.				
Target group(s) <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ At least 300 children, victims or at highest risk (as orphans) of trafficking in form of illegal and commercial adoption;</li> <li>✓ At least 200 families at high risk of falling into the trap of illegal adoption, identified thanks to the social investigation that will be performed by the project;</li> <li>✓ 10 social workers recruited and trained to become members of the territorial staff and carried out the social investigation and the prevention and supporting activities.</li> </ul>				
Final beneficiaries <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ all child population at risk (mainly orphans and institutionalised children) of Albania;</li> <li>✓ State Authorities of Albania (Albanian Committee for Adoption and Albanian Social Services) and Local Administrations responsible to counter the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, which will benefit of data and research in order to develop Action Plans and Policies at state and regional level.</li> </ul>				

<sup>1</sup> "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level

<sup>2</sup> "Final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

Main activities	<p>Activity 1 Setting-up of a Services Centre on Child Trafficking. The Centre was created in July-August 2004 and supplied services of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•social monitoring, information, education and promotion among families and Civil Society, in order to prevent and increase the awareness about the problem of children trafficking in commercial adoption and to counter the mechanisms of children trade;</li> <li>•support the families at risk through mechanisms of parental self-help groups, that could help families at risk of child abandonment also through short-term fostering;</li> <li>•accompaniment of the trafficked children and families during the re-insertion and the post-insertion steps.</li> </ul> <p>Activity 2 Recruitment of the social workers and composition of project équipe</p> <p>Activity 3 Training of social workers about the phenomenon of the trafficking in human beings according to the main inquiries and studies carried out at international level, how to perceive family disorders or which methods can be used to offer social assistance to disrupted families etc. They have received basics of sociological research, on the model of statistical examples, how to formulate questionnaires to be used in their work, and to enter and elaborate data in computers, on the basis of the social research elaborated by the international expert during the previous months.</p> <p>Activity 4: sociological research on children trafficking in the form of commercial adoption in Albania.</p> <p>Activity 5: implementation of actions and campaigns for the prevention of trafficking</p> <p>1 country report published about the commercial adoption and child trafficking in Albania; 500 copies (250 in Albanian and 250 in English) .</p>
Final report	The final narrative report has been delivered to the Commission on 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2005 and accepted.

2. **Supporting life after institutional care** (indicated as “Social experimentation” in the petition). The European Commission, in particular Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG, usually publishes specific call for proposal for “Social Experimentations”. The principle of social experimentation is to test a policy intervention on a **small population** so as to evaluate its efficacy before deciding whether it should be **scaled up**<sup>3</sup>.

Title of the Project	<b>Supporting life after institutional care</b>			
N° of reference:	VP/2009/005/0154 Transnational actions on social experimentation	DG & Financial Program	<b>DG Employment and Social Affairs - Progress</b>	
Cost of the Project	€ 573.166	Amount of EU contribution	€ 458.261	Location of the Project
				Italy, Bulgaria, Romania
Duration of the action	24 months	Dates of Implementation	From 1/02/2010 to 31/01/2012 (open)	
Objectives of the action	The <u>aim</u> of project proposal is promoting access of young people leaving residential care to local services and opportunities in order to increase their abilities to cope with challenges that the adult-world poses them through a social experimentation After-care should be prepared as early as possible in the placement, well before the child leaves the care setting and should be			

<sup>3</sup> Guide to Social Experimentations edit by European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (download Guidelines <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=331&furtherCalls=yes>)

	<p>continued once leaving it..</p> <p>The project proposal aims to promote access of young people leaving residential care to local services and opportunities in order to increase their abilities to cope with challenges that the adult-world poses them.</p> <p>This project is in fact based on the third pillar of the “active social inclusion concept”.</p>
Partners	<p>Synergia S.r.l. – Italy – Profit company included with non profit aim</p> <p>Romanian Association of Health Psychology – Romania – Non-profit research institute</p> <p>Foundation for Human Relation – Bulgaria – NGO</p> <p>Csapsa Cooperativa sociale Onlus – Italy – Social Cooperative</p> <p>Aproapele Association – Romania – NGO</p> <p>Ente Procure Generale della Congregazione delle Missionarie Figlie di San Girolamo Emiliani – Italy – non-profit Christian organisation</p> <p>Comune di Bologna - Settore Coordinamento Sociale e Salute – Italy – Local Authority</p> <p>General Direction of Social Assistance and Child Protection 1st District – Romania – Local Authority</p> <p>Regione Autonoma della Sardegna - Assessorato dell'Igiene e Sanità e dell' Assistenza Sociale – Italy – Local Authority</p>
Target group(s)	<p>In accordance to the “basic concepts and principles of social experimentation” spread by the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the present proposal is consistent with what is considered an experimental treatment: the offer of services to a treatment group that are not offered to.</p> <p>The treatment group will refer to young care leavers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ in age between 15 and 26 years old, male or female,</li> <li>✓ with a meaningful past or still present stay in the child protection system (at least two years)</li> <li>✓ and more specifically in residential settings: these to be intended as institutions or community based residential services, which are both characterised by offering accommodation to the beneficiary group and the absence within the residential facility of substitute temporary families, such as foster families or persons linked by matrimonial or affective relationship that daily and in a stable way manage a family-type home;</li> <li>✓ whose individual care plan does not foresee any family type substitute solution, such as foster care or adoption,</li> <li>✓ or, once left the residential placement did not enter in a substitute family that took care of him/her.</li> </ul>
Final beneficiaries	Young care leavers from Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Bucharest (Romania)
Estimated results	Training and inclusion of a complementary new professional figure, the <i>social intermediary</i> who will act according to an identified program's service. A transnational scientific staff will implement the defined monitoring and evaluation systems aimed to measure the short impact of this new social service and identify program's effectiveness and efficiency, its potential replication and sustainability. The project consists of four macro-activity areas: one social service providing area, one research area, one exchange area and one dissemination area.

Main activities	<p>In order to achieve project's purposes, following actions have been implemented in 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Preparatory meetings and in-depth analysis Sardinia Region Program</b> (<i>February-March 2010</i>)</li> <li>b) <b>First transnational workshop</b> (<i>Bologna, 29-30-31 March 2011</i>)</li> <li>c) <b>National meetings: building a model of work</b> (<i>April-June 2010</i>)</li> <li>d) <b>Second transnational workshop: Scientific Committee</b> (<i>Sophia - 22 and 23 of July 2010</i>)</li> <li>e) <b>European training for social intermediaries</b> (<i>Bologna - 27 September 2010 – 1 October</i>)</li> <li>f) <b>Start up of the work of social intermediaries</b> (<i>October-November 2010</i>)</li> </ul>
Report	<p>The interim report has been delivered to the Commission on 6 June 2011.</p>

**3. Life after institutional care. Equal opportunities and social inclusion for young people: identification and promotion of best practices.** (Identified as "Child out" in the petition). Child out means "out of family children" or in other words "children in alternative care" (institutionalized children, in foster care, in kafala, in adoption, etc) and it is also the name of the website managed by "Amici dei Bambini": [www.childout.org](http://www.childout.org)

<b>N° of reference:</b> VS/2007/0629		<b>Project title:</b> Life after institutional care. Equal opportunities and social inclusion for young people: identification and promotion of best practices			<b>Sector: Human/Children Rights</b>	
<b>Location of the action</b>	<b>Cost of the action (EUR)</b>	<b>lead manager or partner</b>	<b>DG and Financial Program</b>	<b>Amount contributed (by donor)</b>	<b>Dates of implementation</b>	
Italy - France - Bulgaria - Latvia - Romania	€ 654.845,59	Lead manager: Ai.Bi. Amici dei Bambini	DG Employment and Social Affairs – Progress (2007-2013)	€ 517.328,25	From 10/12/2007 to 10/12/2009 (open)	
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		<p>Aim of project: to promote the development of social local policies in order to support social inclusion of young people without a family and grown up under public care, according with an equal opportunity principle. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to identify social inclusion initiatives (services, programs, pilot plans) for young care-leavers in the four Regions target;</li> <li>- to create a set of social, psychological and economic indicators which allow policy makers, stakeholders and public opinion to analyze the efficiency of programs and services set for care-leavers</li> <li>- to promote the awareness of the problem and the diffusion of the good practices identified which can aid to an effective reduction of the risk of social exclusion.</li> </ul>				
<b>Partners</b>		<p>Italy Regione Emilia Romagna, Ufficio Cooperazione Internazionale</p> <p>Latvia Ministry for Children and Family Affairs Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia NGO Latvian Foster Family Society Limbazi Family and Child Centre</p> <p>Romania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directia Generala de Asistenta Sociala si Protectia Copilului, Sector 1, Bucarest, Romania</li> <li>- Directia Generala de Asistenta Sociala si Protectia Copilului, Sector 2, Bucarest, Romania</li> <li>- Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities of Romania</li> <li>- NGO Asociatia Aproapele</li> <li>- NGO Romanian Association of Health Psychology</li> </ul> <p>Bulgaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria</li> <li>- New Bulgarian University</li> </ul> <p>France University of Nantes</p>				
<b>Final beneficiaries</b>		Young care leavers who lived for a long period of time the experience of a protective measure outside their birth-family represent a target-group of persons at great risk of poverty and social exclusion				

Results/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A set of guidelines for the social inclusion of young care leavers translated in 8 languages – <b>Guidelines, Life after institutional care</b> (download <a href="http://www.childout.org/component/childout/?task=Detail&amp;id=24">http://www.childout.org/component/childout/?task=Detail&amp;id=24</a>)</li> <li>- specifically for Italy a <b>CD-Rom</b> which can be updated easily and which contains 4 types of information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- territorial services (training area, documentation area, home area, job area, financial management area, etc.)</li> <li>- recommendations by young people and operators to care leavers</li> <li>- the life in residential structures told with the photographs taken by young people</li> <li>- project information;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- a <b>transnational report</b> related to the research on a new category of socially vulnerable people, at risk of social exclusion: young care leavers let go from the residential structures – <b>2010 Report on abandonment and Care Leavers</b></li> <li>- <b>best practices identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the “<u>Prendere il Volo</u>” project: this project is managed by a private body (the Daughters of Saint Jerome Missionaries) together with the Municipality of Cagliari (Sardinia Region)</li> <li>- <u>Guide referentiel - Favoriser l’Accompagnement vers l’Autonomie des 16-21 ans</u>: this work is the result of a co-operative effort on the part of the Loire Atlantique territorial services, and is updated annually</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Final report	The final report was delivered to the Commission

#### 4. The Children’s Right to family: foster care under lens DG Justice – Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme

Title of the Project	<b>The Children’s Right to family: foster care under lens</b>			
N° of reference:	JLS/2008/CFP/FRC/2008-1	DG & Financial Program	DG Justice, Freedom and Security – Fundamental Rights & Citizenship Programme	
Cost of the Project	€ 505.415	Amount of EU contribution	€ 403.665,00	Project Location
				Italia - Romania - Polonia - Bulgaria – Belgio
Duration	24 months		Dates of Implementation	December 16, 2009 - June 15, 2011 (open)
Objectives of the action	<p>The general aim of this project proposal is the promotion of appropriate and effective forms of foster care in accordance to the spirit of the CRC of 1989, the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Parliament resolution of 16th January 2008: Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child that recognize the child should grow up in a family environment.</p> <p>The specific objective of the project proposal is the empowerment of civil society organisations operating in Veneto and Puglia Regions (North and South of Italy), cities of Bucharest and Iasi (Romania), city of Sofia (Bulgaria), cities of Warsaw and Wroclaw (Poland), in favour of children in need of substitute families without the breaking of family ties.</p>			
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synergia srl – Italy – Profit company included with non profit aim</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regione del Veneto – Segreteria Sanità e Sociale – Direzione dei Servizi Sociali – Servizio Famiglia – Italy – Local Authority</li> <li>• Regione Puglia – Italy – Local Authority</li> <li>• Comune di Bari – Ripartizione Solidarietà – Italy – Local Authority</li> <li>• Romanian Association of Health Psychology – RAHP – Romania – Non profit Research Centre</li> <li>• Aproapele Association – Romania - NGO</li> <li>• General Direction of Social Assistance and Child Protection 1^ District Bucharest – GDSACP Sector 1 – Romania – Local Authority</li> <li>• Social Activities and Practices Institute – SAPI – Bulgaria – Local Authority</li> <li>• OUR Home Association (Polish name: Towarzystwo Nasz Dom) – Polonia - NGO</li> <li>• Eurochild AISBL – European Network of NGOs focused on children’s rights</li> </ul>
Target group(s)	400 civil society organisations from EU countries. For civil society we refer to NGOs, associations, social cooperatives, research institutes.
Final beneficiaries	children in foster care, foster families, their biological families in the four EU target countries
Results	<p>The main purpose of the project was to identify the current and potential role of the organised civil society in the promotion and management / delivery of foster care to children outside their family of origin. The field work and the exchange of information between partners revealed different levels of involvement of the civil society organisations (CSOs). Case studies considered both consolidated experiences. The second main aim of the project was to identify a set of indicators for the effective management of foster care.</p> <p>Project deliverables included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a CD-ROM distributed at the final conference in Brussels</li> <li>- 4 national guidelines (in English and local language)</li> <li>- transnational guidelines</li> <li>- 4 country reports on the situation of foster care</li> <li>- a comprehensive final report: Report 2011 "Foster care and child abandonment as an emergency"</li> </ul>

Final report	The final report was delivered to the Commission on 12 August 2011.
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#### 5. Family-based and Community-based care for children without parental care

Title of the Project	<b>Family-based and Community-based care for children without parental care</b>				
Contract number	2006/132768	DG & Financial Program	<b>EuropeAid CARDS</b>		
Cost of the Project	45.000,00 €	Amount of EU contribution	40.000,00 €	Location of the Project	Albania
Duration of the action	18 months	Dates of Implementation	From 1/1//2007 to 31/10/2007 (closed)		
Objectives of the action	<p>The main goal of the project was to provide the Albanian Government effective instruments (innovative family integration services) to facilitate the integration process, in a family and thus in the society, of the marginalised group of institutionalised children promoting the active participation of local communities.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote and to test new methodologies to support the child and the family in the re/integration process, that could be defined as a 'good practice' to replicate also in other areas.</li> <li>To offer training to local social operators (from public and private sector) on those methodologies and procedures useful to facilitate the re/integration process of institutionalised children.</li> <li>To promote foster-care, adoption and other alternative family-based options able to improve the child's conditions of growth and development also from an affective and emotional point of view.</li> <li>To improve the capacity of Albanian civil society to play an active and effective role in promoting and supporting a reform process of social child protection system more carefully to guarantee the right of every child to live in a family upbringing through the promotion of self-help groups;</li> </ul>				



	To promote the collaboration between public institutions and civil society with the aim to develop alternative care to institutionalization of out-of-family children.
Partners	---
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 52 children living in the state institution Zyber Hallulli located in Tirana;</li> <li>- 100 families (birth parents - mainly coming from Roma communities - and families that are interested to welcome an abandoned child);</li> <li>- 10 family operators.</li> </ul>
Final beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ all Albanian institutionalised children since the methodologies and the services offered can be replicated also in other areas;</li> <li>✓ State Authorities of Albania (Albanian Committee for Adoption and Albanian Social Services) and Local Administrations responsible of social child protection policies that can use the new methodologies and procedures identified during the implementation of the project to develop Action Plans and Policies at state and regional level.</li> </ul>
Main activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Selection and training of 10 family operators about following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Elements of child's psychology</li> <li>✓ Modality for monitoring family needs and troubles</li> <li>✓ Methodologies and techniques in working with children and families</li> <li>✓ The relationship between the family and the community: a network of social relationships, a school services, health services</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Set up of new social services focus on the implementation of the educational intervention plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Preparation of the child by the 10 family operators</li> <li>✓ Preparation of domestic couples (birth or foster or adoptive family) to welcome the child, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychological support;</li> <li>theoretical lessons on child care (nutrition, hygiene, child development stages ...;</li> <li>role playing;</li> <li>problem solving about life in common with the child;</li> <li>Child attachment stiles.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Adoptive parents' evaluation</li> <li>✓ Meetings and round tables with the community</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Final report	The final report was delivered to the Commission and accepted

## 6. Orphan children, from institutional care to family-based care.

Title of the Project	<b>Orphan children, from institutional care to family-based care. The development of fostering and adoption for the right of the child to grow in family upbringing. An International comparison between Western and Eastern Europe</b>				
N° of reference:	Phare/2003/064-754	DG & Financial Program		DG Enlargement, Implementation, Contracts and Nuclear Task Force Unit	
Cost of the Project	EUR 56.710	Amount of EU contribution	€ 45.368,00	Location of the Project	Bucharest
Duration of the action	6 months		Dates of Implementation		From: 24/09/2003 to 25/09/2004 (closed)
Objectives of the action	<p>The overall objective of the project is to contribute at promoting the right of the child to grow in a family upbringing, so to prevent and reduce the child's placement in institutional care. This objective will be pursued through the following specific purposes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ To orient the social policies in terms of prevention, fight and resolution of the main social reasons that provoke family breakdown (such as poverty, social exclusion, unemployment) and consequently increase the risk of children abandonment.</li> <li>✓ To stimulate the planning and the implementation of substitutive care options to the institutional placement, aimed to support the stay of the child in family and/or to facilitate his/her reinsertion (de-institutionalization, fostering, guardianship, adoption).</li> <li>✓ To promote the acknowledgement and the full application of the principle of subsidiarity as it is sanctioned by the Hague International Convention on International Adoption (1993).</li> </ul>				
Participants	Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (PHARE)				
Partners	Prietenii Copiilor Foundation				
Target group(s)	<b>30 participants</b> to the workshop and <b>150 participants</b> to the final Regional Conference				

Main activities	<p><u>Activity 1 – International Workshop (22-24 September 2004)</u></p> <p>Between the various activities, the following issues were tackled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to study and compare the current national childcare systems, the social trends, the main needs and troubles (both at organizational-vocational level and at social-educational level), the policies for modifying and re-converting the institutional placement; to study the various national laws on the matter, with reference and comparison to the International Conventions; to analyze and elaborate integrated strategies for empowering and promoting the substitute care options (fostering, guardianship, adoption).</li> </ul> <p><u>Activity 2 – Regional Conference (25 September 2005)</u></p> <p>At the end of the workshop a Regional Conference for the public has been organized, with the aim to raise awareness of Civil Society, Media and Institutions about the troubles of children in institutional care. The participants at the Conference will be at least 150, coming from the PHARE countries and workers of International Organizations employed on this sector of intervention.</p>
Results of the action	<p>1- Four days international conference organized in Bucarest by Amici dei Bambini in collaboration with Prietenii Copiilor Foundation and Irina Pentru Inima Foundation</p> <p>2 -Fundamental points identified: Prevention of abandonment: it must work for a real cultural change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of making families responsible and their preparation.</li> <li>• Professional training end retraining of social worker, make particular attention to their role as actors of change</li> <li>• Importance of community involvement.</li> </ul> <p>3- Attention of most important media.</p>
Final report	<p>The final report was delivered to the Commission and accepted</p>