



LOCAL COUNCIL OF ARAD MUNICIPALITY

Community Development and Care Directorate

Public Service of local interest

Associate Member of ESN (European Social Network) having the
headquarter in United Kingdom of Great Britain

Social projects for the integration of the roma people in the city

Who are we?

- ✓ **Community Development and Care Directorate** is a public service of local interest, a legal entity, that was set up and functions under the authority of the Local Council of Arad Municipality.
- ✓ The funding of the current and capital expenses of the Directorate is done from the local budget, from the financial contribution of the meals on wheels service users (according to the social canteens law) and residential services for adults users, by grants and fund raising, by donations and sponsorships.
- ✓ The budget of the Community Development and Care Directorate is allocated by the Local Council of Arad Municipality.

What are we doing?

- ✓ The activity of the **Community Development and Care Directorate** is focused on implementation of the all measures, programs, professional activities, specialized services for protecting the person, the groups and the communities that have special problems and are in difficulty, and that have not the possibility to achieve by their own means and efforts a normal and decent life level; it is also focused on community development, by measures of preventing the social exclusion;
- ✓ In the purpose of achieving its goals, for developing and widening the range of the provided services the **Community Development and Care Directorate** set up projects for local development, in different areas, in partnership with the governmental, not-for-profit and private sectors.
- ✓ Since 1996, **Community Development and Care Directorate** has obtained technical support from KIRKLEES Metropolitan Council, UK.

Projects that provide support for the roma minority

Roma minority is the most deprived minority that lives in Arad.

The majority of the roma families live in a high risk situation due to:

- lack of education
- lack of vocational qualification
- inadequate access on the labor force market
- inadequate housing conditions
- extreme poverty
- poor health condition

All this factors are inter-linked and generate each other. And the most serious problem is that they also generate the SEGREGATION phenomenon.

Projects that provide support for the roma minority

In order to eliminate the segregation and to help the integration of the members of roma community in the local community, the **Community Development and Care Directorate** in partnership with a wide range of institutions, organizations and agencies set up a series of projects targeted straight to this minority:

- An Intercultural Social Complex (RAINBOW)
- A project entitled “Equal chances to education in the schools of Arad city”
- •Support for the young roma people
- A community centre for young roma people
- The housing projects

Projects that provide support for the roma minority

Intercultural social complex

“RAINBOW” Project

The complex was set up by the support of Kinderdorf – Pestalozzi – Swiss Foundation, by the **Rainbow – intercultural education and training for children and teenagers** Project.

The target of the project is to include as many as possible children and teenagers in the intercultural education, to attract them to school and to give equal chances to the disadvantaged children and teenagers.

The **first stage** of the project included 4 mainstream schools from Arad and the Intercultural social complex. In the **second stage**, the project was duplicated in other 5 cities from Romania.

The centre has 180 users coming out especially from roma population, and also children with special educational needs

Projects that provide support for the roma minority

“Equal chances to education in the schools of Arad city”

The project was initiated by the Schools Inspectorate from Arad, in partnership with the Community Development and Care Directorate from Arad. The project is funded by PHARE Programme.

THE PURPOSE: To provide equal chances to access the education to all the children (including those that had not graduated the primary 4 forms), regardless gender, religion or ethnicity.

Target groups:

- Children with special educational needs;
- Roma children;
- Children that had not graduated the primary 4 forms.

Objectives:

- To change the attitudes and behaviors, to change the way the problems of disadvantaged minorities are dealt with;
- To integrate children with special educational needs in 9 mainstream school units

Support for the young roma people

- **Target group:** young roma people having no vocational qualification
- **Activities:** vocational qualification as builders for 25 young roma people, rehabilitation of the houses of each of these young people, in groups of 5 people lead by a foreman
 - **Purpose:** to set up some support groups inside the community, to turn to the best account the resources of the group, to eliminate the dependence state of the young people and of their families.
 - **Results:** 25 young roma people with vocational qualification, 25 rehabilitated houses, 25 families out of risk situation

Projects that provide support for the roma minority

The local public administration of Arad city ran during the last 2 years two housing projects targeted especially to the roma minority:

The housing projects

- First project was run by Arad City Hall and funded by the Govern. There were built 12 social apartments (on Tarafului Street) for people who were affected by floods in Sega district.
- The second project was run by the Community Development and Care Directorate from Arad and it was funded by PHARE Programme and the local budget. There were built 10 social apartments for roma people and also there was provided the infrastructure for the whole district (running water, sewerage, roads and natural gas).

The Community center for the young roma people

- **Target group:** teenagers and young people aged 12 – 21
- **Purpose:** to prevent the setting up of the district gangs
- **Activities:** providing counseling, scholar and vocational orientation, support in doing homework for those attending mainstream schools, inclusion in the educational system of those who abandoned, entertainment and an useful way to spend leisure time, promotion of the intercultural spirit.

Other support services

Roma people can also access the services provided by the local public administration of Arad city targeted to other groups that are in risk situation, groups that do not exclude roma members. This services are:

- √ Social Home
- √ The socio-vocational rehabilitation centre
- √ The Spring House
- √ Day and Night care centre for homeless people
- √ Social welfare and benefits
- √ Social canteen - meals on wheels

Office for the social integration of the youngsters – Social Home

- ▼ *Objective: to support the social integration of the young people proceeding from the care institution, the building of their abilities and practical skills and to prepare them to assume their responsibility.*
 - ▼ *Provides temporary accommodation, up to 3 years, and also provides support for the social integration of the young people coming out from the care institutions of Arad city and county, provides material support, counseling for vocational orientation and support in finding a workplace; implements diverse educational and training programs that prepare young people for an independent life.*

- ▼ *An important percentage of the young people comes out from the roma minority, others are proceeding from special schools, having different degrees of disability. Total number of users: 50 young people, 46 having a stable workplace, 2 working at the Socio-Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, and other 2 young people do some cleaning activities.*

Socio-Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for young people with disabilities

- ✓ *Objective: To provide support to the young people that have different disabilities to abilitate them to live an independent life and to raise their self-esteem.*
- ✓ *Provides social re-integration services, support in the development of the skills and personal abilities of the young people with different kind of disabilities.*

- Activities:*
- ✓ *Occupational and rehabilitation therapies;*
 - ✓ *Sewing, woven, artistry, laundry services and ironing for institutions belonging to the Directorate and for third person;*
 - ✓ *Entertainment, sport activities, trips, etc.*

Spring House – the therapeutical and educational centre for HIV-positive children

*The centre was set up by the **Local Council of Arad Municipality** that provided the building and allocated funds from the local budget, in partnership with **Kinderreigen Foundation** from Germany – that contributed with some funds for the rehabilitation of the building, and with **Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe für notleidende Kinder der Welt** – Munchen, Germany that provided the furniture and medical devices.*

**The centre is running in the following regimes:
residential, weekly, day care**

Some of the users are from the roma minority

The centre provides for the children health specialized monitoring, the possibility to attend kindergarten, primary and gymnasium education, adequate daily meals, psycho-pedagogic counseling, speech therapy, school and vocational orientation, entertainment and educational activities for leisure time, trips and camps.

Night shelter

✚ provides night shelter for people in social risk situation: *children, pregnant women, women with many children, older people and people with disabilities; provides breakfast and dinner; is concerned on the health state of the users, provides material support (clothes, medicines, personal small things) and supports the social re-integration of the users.*

Day centre and medical isolation room for homeless people

- ✚ Funded by Romanian Fund for Social Development
- ✚ Realized in partnership with “Renincoor Open Hand” Foundation

- Objectives:**
- ✚ Social re-integration of the homeless people by providing counseling, social and psychological care services
 - ✚ Improving the health state of homeless people by the services provided and through the medical unit existing in the day care centre and by the medical services offered in the medical isolation room.
 - ✚ Support the users in finding a workplace
 - ✚ Provides counseling and refers the users to the appropriate care institutions.
 - ✚ Support the integration of the children in the educational system.

The majority of the users are from the roma minority

Other services

- ✓ *Social welfare and benefits) - the number of the beneficiaries is by far lower than in other cities, even larger than Arad. This situation is due to the preventive work developed by the social workers.*
- ✓ *Social canteen – meals on wheels. This service is provided for the most disadvantaged people: people with disabilities, older people, families with many children in extreme poverty.*

Consultancy and co-operation centre of local public administration and nongovernmental organisations

- ✓ *Provides support in identifying the potential fund donors and in setting up the projects for fund raising,*
 - ✓ *Provides counseling in running the projects,*
 - ✓ *Organizes meetings with the representatives of media, with sponsors and volunteers,*
 - ✓ *Provides free legal advice,*
 - ✓ *Organizes fairs and training sessions,*
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- ✓ *Produces publicity materials for the NGOs, eg: yearly Catalogue of NGOs*
 - ✓ *Provides access to computer / Internet / fax – xerox / projector / rooms in the center,*
 - ✓ *Encourage the co-operation in setting up and achieving some mutual projects of NGOs, different agencies and foreign partners*

Result: we have a very active Roma NGO!!!

Partnerships and Policies

The Community Development and Care Directorate, co-operates with a series of institutions, NGOs and other agencies that provides services for disadvantaged people in order to implement both the national and local policies for preventing the social exclusion of the minorities and for increasing the social cohesion inside the local community.