

# PERFECTING THE SYSTEM OF EXTERNAL FINANCING OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES OF CHILD AND ADULT PROTECTION

**Boghicevici (Pantea) Claudia**

*Universitatea de Vest Timișoara, Facultatea de Științe Economice, Arad, str Vrancei, nr 41A., pla\_net\_claudia@yahoo.com, Tel:0727821645*

**Miklo (Buda) Cătălina Petruța**

*Universitatea de Vest Timișoara, Facultatea de Științe Economice, Arad, str. Piata Garii nr.6, bl I, sc B, ap.8, catalina.miklo@alcoa.com, Tel:0728040060*

**Herbei Marius**

*Universitatea de Vest Timișoara, Facultatea de Științe Economice, Arad str.Metianu nr.4, marius.herbei@yahoo.com, Tel:0721631540*

*Abstract: After 1989, the programs' management has developed and it contained diverse aspects regarding the social life, due to the assistance of the European Community in the field of protection of the under-privileged persons.*

*During the period 1991 – 2006, Romania has received from UE around 6.5 billion Euros within the three instruments of pre-adherence.*

*The balanced development of all the country's regions will be performed by an integrated approach, based on the contribution of public investments in the local infrastructure, active policies of stimulation of the business activities and support regarding the capitalization of local resources on the following thematic priority axis of POR:*

*Key words: the programs' management, three instruments of pre-adherence, The funds, the child protection system, the PHARE, a policy of social and economic cohesion, thematic priority axis of POR, The POR analysis, the "rrom" population,, human rights, the labor market.*

After 1989, the programs' management has developed and it contained diverse aspects regarding the social life, due to the assistance of the European Community in the field of protection of the under-privileged persons. This situation could be considered as "a trend of projects, legitimated in the conditions of the transition", but the phenomena marks a new paradigm of the intervention, a new model of efficient management in the conditions of the dynamic society that is marked by post-modernism.

The elaboration of minimal standards of quality represents a result of the process of aging of the social practices in the field of social assistance.

During the period of pre-adherence, Romania was the beneficiary of important funds, in the form of grants or in the form of loans, supplemented by a national co-funding (where it was necessary), directed towards different purposes, from major investments in infrastructure and support to the business environment and up to consolidation of the administrative capacities of the Romanian public administration to transpose and implement the European acquis. The main support came from the European Union, through the pre-adherence programs (PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD), the bilateral assistance of the EU Member States, the community programs<sup>129</sup>, the loans from EBRD and EBI etc. Other funds came from the World bank (for example SAMTID), PNUD and UNEP (for example Global Facility of Environment).

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<sup>129</sup> Socrate II (2000-2006), Leonardo da Vinci II (2000-2006), Tinerete (Youth) (2000-2006), Viață (Life) (2000-2004), Cultura 2000 (Culture 2000) (2000-2004), Programul pentru Întreprinderi și Spirit Antreprenorial (Program for Enterprises and Business Spirit) (2001-2005), Ida II (1998-2004), Acțiunea Comunitară în domeniile Sănătății Publice (Community Action in the Field of Public Health) (2003-2008), E-content (2001-2005), Egalitate de Șanse (Equality of Opportunities) (2001-2005), Combaterea Discriminării (Fighting Discrimination) (2001-2006), Combaterea Excluziunii Sociale (Fighting Social Exclusion) (2001-2005), Programul cadrul nr. 6 pentru Cercetare și Dezvoltare Tehnologică, inclusiv Euratom (Framework Program No. 6 for Technological Research and Development, including Euratom) (2002-2006), Măsuri de încurajare în domeniul ocupării forței de muncă (Encouragement Measures in the

During the period 1991 – 2006, Romania has received from UE around 6.5 billion Euros within the three instruments of pre-adherence: PHARE (including the CES and CBC components) ISPA and SAPARD. Starting with the year 2000, when the process of negotiation has begun regarding the adherence of Romania to EU, the annual allocation of European funds within these three instruments has represented the equivalent of 25% of the total investments performed by the national budget, reaching in 2006 the amount of 1.1 billion Euros.

The funds allocated to the child protection system through the PHARE Program together with those with the same destination that have been made available to the specific institutions by the Government of Romania have led to major movements regarding the permanent decrease of the number of institutionalized children as well as regarding the diversification of the types of performers from this field, especially by the apparition and development of private bodies of accreditation as well as professional maternal assistance.

## **Utilization of structural and cohesion funds in funding of social assistance services from Romania**

The European Union is one of the most prosperous regions from the world.

Since its enlargement with 12 new members on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 and January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, it has the power of an internal market of 27 states with almost 500 million inhabitants who live in almost 300 regions. But not all Europeans have the same advantages and chances of success in social – economic terms, which has led to the elaboration of a policy of social and economic cohesion to remove these disparities.

There are

1. three Funds known as Structural Funds for programming the period 2007 – 2013:
  - European Fund of Regional Development (FEDR)
  - European Social Fund (FSE)
  - Cohesion Fund (FC)
2. - two Funds known as Complementary Actions, meaning:
  - European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (FEADR)
  - European Fund for Fishing (FEP)

The funds contribute, each in conformity with the specific provisions that they regulate, to the achievement of the three objectives previously mentioned, as follows:

- g) at the convergence objective: FEDER, FSE and Cohesion Fund;
- h) at the objective of regional competition and work places: FEDER and FSE;
- i) at the objective of European territorial cooperation: FEDER.

The balanced development of all the country's regions will be performed by an integrated approach, based on the contribution of public investments in the local infrastructure, active policies of stimulation of the business activities and support regarding the capitalization of local resources on the following thematic priority axis of POR:

1. Support of sustainable development of towns – potential poles of development
2. Improvement of local and regional transport infrastructure
3. Improvement of social infrastructure
4. Support of development regarding the regional and local business
5. Sustainable development and promotion of tourism
6. Technical Assistance

Priority axis 3 – Improvement of social infrastructure

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Field of Employment) (2001-2005), Mecanismul de Protecție Civilă (Mechanism of Civil Protection) (2002-2007), Vamă (Customs) (2003-2007), Fiscalis (2003-2007), Acțiune Comunitară în Sprijinul Protecției Consumatorului (Community Action in the Support of Consumer's Protection) (2004-2007), Agenția Europeană de Mediu (European Agency of Environment).

### 3.2 Rehabilitation / modernization / development and equipping of social services' infrastructure

The particular objective of this field of intervention represents the improvement of quality and capacity of the social services that are provided through their balanced support throughout the entire territory of the country in order to ensure an equal access to these services for all citizens.

The POR analysis have shown a precarious situation of the social services' infrastructure and the need to make investment for rehabilitation, modernization and equipping of the buildings where these services are provided. At the same time, the necessity of investments arises as a result of the establishment of certain minimal standards of quality for the social services that must be fulfilled by the residential centers.

In many situations, the poor quality of infrastructure and the lack of equipment make the persons belonging to under-privileged social groups to call on social services from other areas, getting further from their residence. At the same time, this situation also affects the performance in normal conditions of the activities from the labor market, for two reasons: qualified and sufficient social assistance is not given to the persons belonging to the vulnerable groups who could be reinserted on the labor market and the active persons who have in their family dependent members spend an important part of their time taking care of them, but insufficiently and unqualified, with repercussions on the dependent persons who does not benefit from permanent specialized care as well as on the work's quality and life of the persons who have in their family members with different disabilities or alone persons who are taking care of children.

The improvement and diversification of the social services offered by the residential and multi-functional centers can contribute to the relief of families' active members of caring for the dependent persons for the period of time of the work hours and to increase labor quality of the active persons as well as of the dependent ones.

The social centers with multifunctional designation will cover a wide range of services with the purpose of helping the persons in difficulty, starting by accepting them in the center until their specific problems are solved, temporarily or permanently (material, financial, cultural, legal and administrative, relational, medical or regarding employment), inclusively by organizing workshops for development of independent life skills and professional abilities.

The development of these social centers can be supplemented by investments in residential centers already existing which ensure services of long term accommodation thus ensuring a proper place of accommodation and caring for the persons in difficulty. A special attention will be given to the "rom" population.

Therefore, the implementation of such projects will have positive results, from a humanitarian point of view as well as from the point of view of the reinsertion on the labor market of many persons in difficulty. In order to facilitate the access of the underprivileged groups from within the communities to social services, the "principle of open gates" will be observed.

The identification at a regional level of the projects of rehabilitation, modernization and equipping of the residential and social centers' infrastructure will be performed in accordance with the priorities established through the National Strategy regarding Social Services as well as with the needs identified through the county strategies of social inclusion and the Plans of Regional Development.

**FUNDING OF PROJECTS** within the Regional Operational Program – in the field of social protection

Authorities of the central and local public administration

- FEDR contribution: 85 %
- Contribution from state budget: 13 %
- Contribution from the local budget: 2%

Legal persons that are not trading companies (NGOs):

- FEDR contribution: 85 %
- Contribution from state budget: 13 %
- Own contribution: 2%

Priority axis 6 – Promotion of social inclusion

Objective:

Facilitating the access on the labor market for vulnerable groups and promoting the inclusive society for the purpose of ensuring the well-being of each citizen.

Substantiation:

This priority axis tries to develop specific programs of personal development for the purpose of increasing the motivation of vulnerable groups for professional training and integration on the labor market as well for the improvement of the access on the labor market.

The social inclusion can be successfully achieved through a complex approach that is addressed to all fields (employment, education, social protection, health care, management, etc.) at the same time using the maximum of available resources in a concentrated and efficient manner. The efficient coordination can be achieved only by being aware of all the parties concerned in the intended purpose and in the benefits of such an action of synchronization.

This can be achieved by providing the proper access to base services (water, electricity, etc.), to information as well as by ensuring the non-discriminatory treatment in the sense of having access to all the opportunities offered by society.

The ambitious objective of Romania is to successfully build an inclusive society based on general understanding and observance of human rights.

Although important steps have been made, it is necessary the continuous improvement of the method of approach of the persons that belong to the vulnerable groups, granting them support in order to recover the handicap that separates them from the large population from the point of view of education, labor culture and abilities that are requested on the labor market.

Until the month of December, the applicants hope to appear in the guides for funding of the axis related to the social field, so that they can start the registration of projects and the accessing of the European funds.

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