

Annex 1 – The methodology and process used for elaborating the alternative report

The report's methodology is derived in large measure from the UN Convention, adopted by the Romanian Government in 1992. This Alternative Report is based on the information collected by FONPC for the period 2009-2013 and on data presented in the analytical report on children's rights in Romania; it was drafted under the projects carried out by FONPC.

More than 90 NGOs and professional associations, FONPC members and non-members and nearly 160 professionals in the field of child protection and welfare. They participated in working groups, panel of the experts, public meetings, roundtables, various advocacy activity, data collection process and in the drafting of the analysis and monitoring reports, and of the final product, the Alternative Report. Also, 300 professionals participated in roundtables and advocacy activities organized by FONPC and over 100 professionals were involved in pre-testing and implementing the guidelines for monitoring children's rights. In total, over 550 professionals have been directly involved in the drafting of the Alternative Report.

The analytical report has been drawn up in several stages, from 2009 to present.

In 2009, under the "Monitoring indicators for children's rights respect in Romania" project, supported by UNICEF Romania, FONPC, with support from a panel of experts (9 persons) have developed five instruments for monitoring children's rights at national level, with a view to drafting complementary reports and rights-based programming. These instruments were focused on two clusters of rights: the right to education and leisure and the right to life, survival and development (with an emphasis on child poverty).

Based on established methodologies, the 5 monitoring tools were improved. 14 professionals from NGOs and public institutions drafted monitoring guidelines containing over 300 indicators. The guidelines were discussed and finalized at two workshops organized by FONPC and attended by FONPC staff and a panel of 31 professionals and 2 children. Professionals were representatives from NGOs, local and central authorities and UNICEF.

Between 2010 - 2011, while implementing the project "Advocacy for building national consensus on independent structures and instruments for monitoring children's rights", supported by UNICEF Romania, FONPC staff together with 5 professionals review the 5 monitoring tools drawn up in 2009 and a number of modest changes have been made to adapt to simplify the data collection systems. The instruments were pre-tested in Iasi County. Bethany Foundation, an FONPC member was the local coordinator for the pre-testing process. Previously, FONPC staff produced a methodology and training materials to better prepare Bethany Foundation team involved in pre-testing. During this pre-test process, we used questionnaires and focus groups 275 questionnaire were send out, 170 persons were engaged by sending information, reports or questionnaire back to organizers and 33 persons attended at focus groups. A report was produced.

Encourage by the success among the NGOs and public authorities and usefulness of the guidelines, FONPC decided to continue elaborating guidelines for remaining clusters of rights. Thus in 2011, four working groups were established, comprised of FONPC members (18 NGOs), representatives from central and local institutions (11 persons), and independent

experts (5 persons). They drafted three guidelines for the following clusters of rights: health and welfare, special protection measures, family environment and alternative protection.

In the same period FONPC carried out the "Analysis of structures for monitoring, promoting and protecting children's rights" Project. The purpose was to clarify the role and type of institutions at national and international level regarding the monitoring children rights, and make recommendations on children's rights monitoring system in Romania. The analysis was conducted by a panel of nine experts and was presented on 9 November to the Romanian Senate, as part of an event chaired by President of the Senate and attended by 71 professionals and policy makers. After the event, a call was launched to journalists to promote children's rights and the existence of an independent structure for monitoring children's rights Romania.

In the same year, 2011, FONPC invited public partners to provide feedback on the Country Report on children's rights, done by public authorities, which will be presented to the UN Committee in Geneva. Thus, a meeting was held on February 27, attended by 27 persons, FONPC staff and member organizations and 4 representatives of the Child Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

In 2012, monitoring guides for the following clusters were revisited: the right to life, survival and development – the Poverty item; Education, cultural and leisure activities; Family environment and alternative protection; Special protection; Basic health and welfare.

These monitoring guidelines were sent to the Child Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Labour and Social protection as a resource for developing national monitoring tools under the project "Strengthening the Ministry of Labour and Social protection so as to coordinate the process of implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child".

In addition, FONPC implemented the monitoring guidelines for "Family environment and alternative protection", with the support of 13 NGOs, members of FONPC. 52 questionnaires were received from 40 public institutions (DGASPCs, schools, centres of services for children, one hospital, town halls, the General Inspectorate of Police) and 12 NGOs. FONPC drafted the assessment report.

In 2013, FONPC launched an online survey to identify the public authorities' awareness on relevant legislation and policies, the situation of services (human, financial, material resources and infrastructure), data collection and monitoring in the field of children's rights and the community participation in the decision making process. A questionnaire with 46 items was drafted by FONPC staff, which was disseminated, with the support of Child protection Directorate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Association of Romanian Municipalities and member organizations. Recipients were public authorities at local and county level (General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, School Inspectorates, Public Social Assistance Services etc.). involved in the development and monitoring of local policies on children. Over 47 questionnaires were filled in. The report was disseminated by FONPC to all its partners and members.

In 2013, FONPC was engaged in monitoring children's right to education, under the project "Micro-grants - Steps towards autonomy", funded by the Velux Foundation and implemented by SOS Children's Villages Romania. A panel of experts/ NGOs members for monitoring the right to education and leisure was set up by FONPC. The FONPC members were trained how to use and apply the FONPC's guidelines. 17 monitors from the FONPC member NGOs implemented

the instrument. 453 questionnaires were collected in Bucharest and 13 counties (Bacau, Botosani, Braila, Cluj, Constanta, Dolj, Hunedoara, Ialomita, Iasi, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Timis, Vaslui); the target group consisted of representatives from public local authorities, county school inspectorates and institutions subordinated to DGASPCs, accredited providers of social services, NGOs representatives, parents' associations, cultural centres or other public or private entities in urban and rural areas. 17 reports resulting from the implementation of the guidelines for monitoring and the quantitative and qualitative data obtained were the basis for data analysis and summary report.

The Federation elaborated and implemented an advocacy plan/campaign to promote the role of NGOs as monitors of children's rights in Romania within the "Strategic development for protecting children's rights" project, financed through EEA Grants 2009 - 2014. Thus the topic of monitoring the children's rights was debated by the NGOs involved in the project during 10 roundtables (an average of 17 participants per each meeting); a report of each roundtable was elaborated. The project ended by a national event the launch of the analysis report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in the educational system in Romania. The event was attended by over 35 persons.

Also in 2013, with the support of UNICEF Romania, SERA Romania Foundation and Home and Hope for Children Romania, FONPC effectively began the elaboration of the 2009- 2013 Alternative Report on children's rights in Romania, to conclude the analysis process carried on for the previous 5 years. FONPC organized five thematic working groups on the 8 clusters of rights. It also established terms of reference for the coordination of the groups and publicly launched a call for the coordination. 65 persons, professionals from NGOs and independent experts, actively participated and contributed to these groups. The invitation to participate in drafting the 2009 -2013 Alternative Report launch in 2014 was answered by 40 representatives from NGOs, FONPC members and non-members. In addition, other 35 NGOs representatives expressed their intention to be involved in drafting the Alternative Report, by sending information materials (media articles, studies, reports) and providing feedback on the documents submitted for consultation.

In February 2014, as part of the previously named project, FONPC organized a meeting aimed to analyze the first draft of the country report, released for public debate. The meeting was attended by 27 representatives of FONPC staff and member organizations and 4 representatives of the Child Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

In 2014, as part of the data collection for the Alternative Report, FONPC organized national and international meetings for piloting the Index on children's rights, elaborated by the ChildPact Network (a network of federations in the field of children's rights in 8 countries from Black Sea Region). 6 experts from Romania piloted the Index in Romania.

Between 2009 and 2015, the Federation conducted a series of focus groups that provided extremely useful information for the alternative report on juvenile justice. Thus, FONPC carried reports on the topic of juvenile justice and child hearing. Project was funded by the French Embassy in Romania.

In addition, FONPC organized several working groups and debates on the topic of funding social services (contracting services), through projects supported by UNICEF Romania and France Embassy.

FONPC staff, who prepare the draft report, use a broad range of sources, including news articles, academic analyses, reports from nongovernmental organizations, and individual professional opinions.

The "Strategic development for protecting children's rights" project, aimed at increasing organizational capacity for FONPC and its NGO members, financed by the EEA grants 2009 - 2014, under the ONG Fund in Romania (www.fondong.fdsc.ro) has been instrumental in drafting the alternative report. During this project, FONPC mobilized its members for collecting and submitting the relevant information required for the Alternative Report.

"A stronger Federation for promoting children's rights", a project financed with EEA grants 2009 - 2014, under the NGO Fund in Romania, in April 2015 - March 2016, has been instrumental for completing the Alternative Report and for mobilizing of FONPC members to continuously promote the monitoring mechanism for children's rights in Romania.

Children participation in elaboration of monitoring guidelines and their involvement in the assessment and monitoring of the protection of children's rights in Romania

In 2010, FONPC established, under a project funded by UNICEF Romania, a group of 28 children and youth, beneficiaries of the FONPC member organizations (children from poor families, children in foster care, Roma children) to be involved in various projects related on child's rights. The group of children created guidelines for monitoring four categories of rights: the right to education, to health, to family environment and alternative protection and special protection measures. Between 26 September and 14 October, children implemented the guidelines for the right to education and right to health. There were engaged school pupils from middle and high school level. A total of 139 completed questionnaires were received as follows 69 health questionnaires and 70 educations.

Starting with 2010, FONPC organized, annually the Festival for Children's Rights, were activities involving children and youth always played a central part of the event. Yearly, over 300 children and youth were involved in activities conducted as part of the festival: workshops, monitoring reports, open letters etc.

World Vision Foundation actively supported FONPC in mobilizing youth to monitor and report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Romania. These children and youth developed a Report on children's rights which is included as part of the Alternative Report.

World Vision Romania Foundation also organized, together with FONPC and Eurochild, a debate on the topic of child participation in decision making in Romania. The event was attended by 18 children aged 12-18 years. Following this debate, a report was drafted by children, analysing children's views on their involvement in decision making at all levels.

In 2015, as part of the European Regional Conference of ISPCAN - The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 14th edition, FONPC organized a Youth Forum which was attended by over 100 Romanian children and youth coming from FONPC members and its partners (Ministry of Labour - National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption (ANPDCA), Student Council, UNICEF Romania, Romanian Youth Forum in Romania, World Vision Romania, SOS Children's Villages, APDD - Agenda 21, Motivation Foundation). The participants had the mission to analyse the situation of the following issues: bullying, school violence, neglect and online violence. These topics were selected by themselves as being very

important for the day to day life. During the workshops, the children and youth analysed the situation of children's rights over the past five years, then drafted a position paper called the "Bucharest Declaration" appealing to the authorities to support children and youth in their efforts. Also, the "Bucharest Declaration" is a position paper with respect to protecting children's rights. Children and youth made powerful recommendations to the Romanian public authorities and civil society attended the Conference.

Therefore, the data collected between 2009 and 2015 by FONPC are reflected in the Analysis Report of the situation of children's rights in Romania for 2009 - 2013. The Alternative Report represent a compressive analysis of the previous one. The chapters follow the clusters of rights, as classified by the reporting guidelines for NGO, provided by the UN Committee in Geneva through Child Rights Connect.

The data collected by and from children formed the Children Alternative Report. They were supported and coordinated by World Vision Romania Foundation and FONPC.