

CHILDREN – INCOME SOURCE FOR THEIR FAMILIES

THE BIRTH OF DYSFUNCTIONAL ATTITUDES

Family portrait

- large families (with at least three children) confronted with important financial problems
- relations within families are marked by the concern for survival, parents thinking that children should contribute and help them to overcome the problems
- the poverty of these families is caused by the lack of a permanent income-generating occupation, which leads to a lack of proper living conditions and the impossibility of providing for the family basic needs, such as daily meals.
- families receive the welfare benefit according to the minimum guaranteed income law and incomes from occasional/seasonal work
- children haven't completed compulsory education or never attend school



Forms of exploitation

Children are exploited by their parents or relatives

- they “work” in the streets of Romania –begging, stealing or practicing prostitution
- time: sometimes more than eight hours per day/night
- Conditions in the streets: very difficult, unbearable heat or very low temperatures
- in case of Roma children, their involvement in work in order to contribute to the family income is a tradition
 - they work within the household (cleaning, taking care of younger siblings)

- and/or participate together with their parents in agricultural activities, production or sale of different goods, collection of recyclable materials, working in squares/warehouses, in construction or on the street (begging or washing windscreens of cars).

The essential push factor for the parents' decision to emigrate or for their consent that their children work abroad is the family's difficult economic status and the prospects in the country of origin.

Working abroad is perceived as a "progress", or as a new and more effective way of earning their living

THE WAY TO HIGHER INCOMES

Methods of recruitment

1. children are recruited by the family's acquaintances or friends, with the consent of the family

- recruiters initially enter the family's circle of friends with the specific purpose of recruiting children
- once they get to know the family they usually disclose their intentions and convince the parents or adults responsible for the children that working abroad gives better opportunities to the child and the family
- in some cases one of the parents (usually the father) accompanies the child to the country of destination. If this happens, it is very likely that the adult previously travelled abroad and is familiar with the itinerary and border crossing

- parents sell their children even though they know about exploitative purpose, in which case the head of a trafficking network may send part of the child's earnings to the family
 - recruiters usually offer the family mobile phones, clothes, or jewellery already before the departure to influence their decision
 - sometimes, these promises materialise in purchasing goods even when the family itself is involved in the trafficking process
3. most common- children are leaving together with parents, being trafficked by them
- they practically move the "job" of the child abroad

Means of transportation

- buses of specialised travel agencies and trains
- parents or recruiters only use certain companies recommended by those who had successfully managed to get to the destination country
- drivers usually are well experienced and provide advice or tips about the possible obstacles or risks involved in crossing the border
- they use several different transportation companies preferring to travel first to one of the capitals of a neighbouring country (e.g. Budapest, Belgrade, Sofia) and then use a bus from a local transportation company (to avoid strict inspections of tourist buses coming from Romania).

During trafficking

- children generally work in the streets, which exposes them to the risks of street life
- mainly exploited in illegal activities, such as petty crimes, and begging but there are also cases of children forced to work in agriculture, picking fruits or vegetables (Germany, Spain, Austria) and selling flowers
- children are also exploited through labour in constructions, the preferred country being in this case the Czech Republic
- Because of the risk of being caught and repatriated, children are forced to work almost without a stop
- living conditions: crowded shelters with adults, tents, trailers, insalubrious or deserted houses and basements; they don't receive proper food and don't have enough rest time

- provision or non-provision of food is a reward for their efficiency in collecting money or a punishment in the event they are not successful.
- Children are forced to earn a certain amount of money per day, being afraid of the beatings at the end of the day.
- being controlled by the parents, they could not play or make friends, nor could they ask for the support of, and thereby benefit from, the social services provided in the destination countries

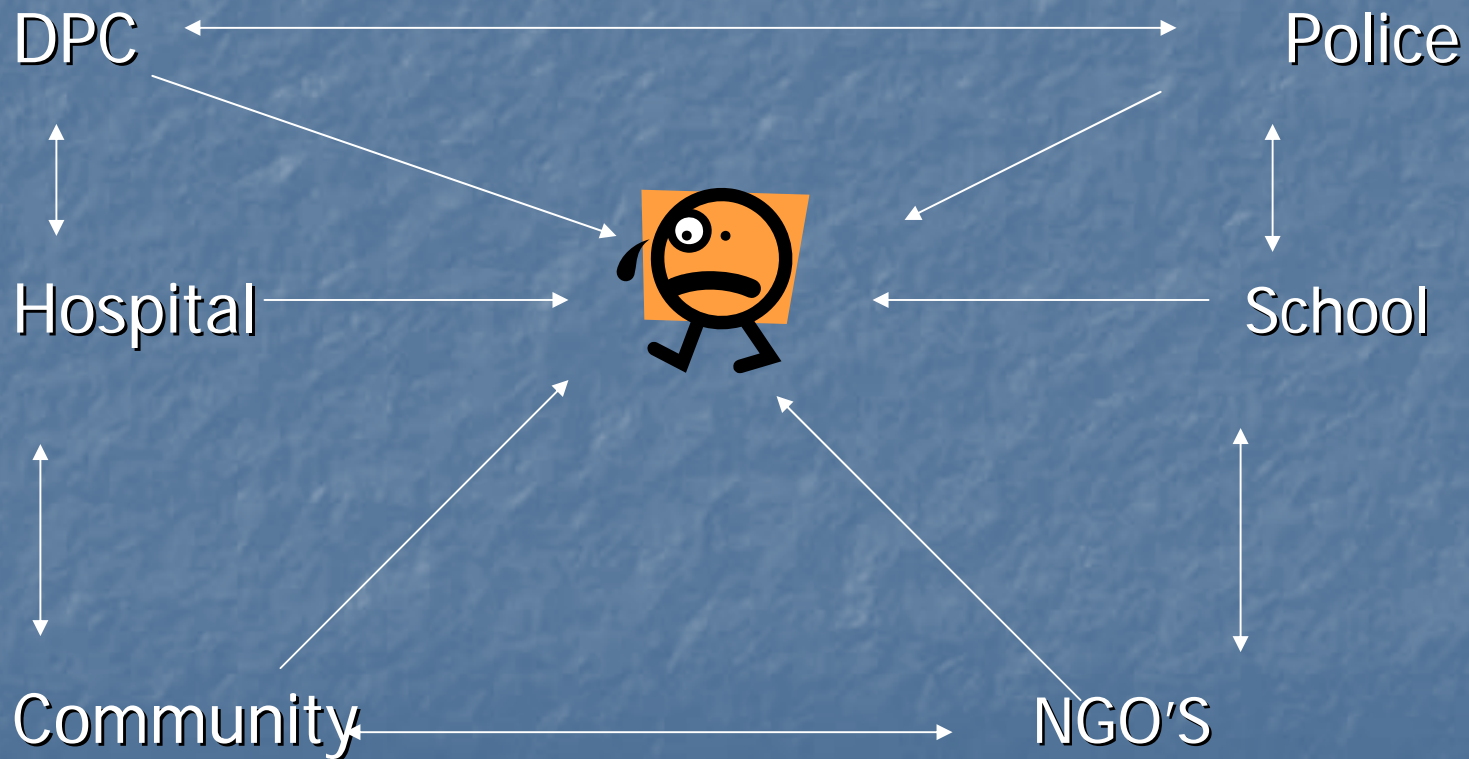
CHANGING DYSFUNCTIONAL ATTITUDES

- A multidisciplinary process for “INVOLUNTARY CLIENTS”

INVESTIGATE THE CASE

- basic assessment and emergency intervention
- family assessment
- planning the intervention
- intervention
- final assessment and case closure

NETWORK



INTERVENTION

- identity papers
- psychological rehabilitation
- school/professional reintegration
- establish a community support system
- Build of independent life skills (how to communicate with the system)
- Family reintegration / identification of alternatives
- Monitoring

Psychological assistance

Focused on: (swedish model)

D – description of the experience

E – expression of the feelings

S – say no and put limits

A – acceptance and integration of traumatic experience

Flexible- works with children no matter age.

Education

Focus on:

- Support poor families so that they can afford to send their children to school
- Ensure that those living on the streets attend school
- Restrict or limit children's employment practices as this may affect their school attendance

Employment

- If they have to work, we provide various forms of assistance
- The child has fully recovered from his/her trauma and need to generate his/her own income
- Need for stable, permanent employment
- Work in safe environments
- Assessment and skills training and practical training to increase their employment options
- Information about what professions are available, what skills are needed and what steps should be undertaken to be employed

FINAL ASSESSMENT AND CASE CLOSURE

- Safety of the child
- Decrease the risk of re-trafficking
- Monitoring