



**EVIDENCE BASED ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION
IN AUTISM AND COMORBID DISORDERS**

*Early Interventions Used in Special
Schools in Romania*

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ORGANISATION

AHS Cluj-Napoca – NGO set up in 2004 by Psychology gradulators.

Mission: supporting the integration of people with special needs

Objectives:

- Continuous development of the complex of services for children with disabilities;
- Setting up community structures for disabled adults;
- Setting up a structure for employees` training;

Partnerships: Cluj-Napoca City Hall and County Council, Babeș-Bolyai University, Psychiatry Clinic, Schools Board, General Direction of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Romanian Federation of Curative Education, EASPD, Special School no.1 Cluj and Tg. Mureș.

Target group: disabled people, parents, legal tutors, family

CURATIVE EDUCATION CENTER

(15.09.2006 – present)

- *Purpose:* provide access to education for severely mentally disabled children (those ones rejected by all other institutions).
- *Project's objectives:* gaining knowledge, formal education, developing abilities, corrective- compensating activities
- *Partners:* Cluj County Council by means of Special School No.1 Cluj.
- *Activities:* teaching process is performed in accordance with Ministry of Education's Decree no. 5236/01.09.2008 (specific curriculum).

CURATIVE EDUCATION CENTER

- Educational alternative recognized by the Romanian Ministry of Education.
- Specialists/ beneficiaries ratio: 2/5
- Beneficiaries: severely mentally disabled children
- Education process + compensatory therapies: speech therapy, kinesiotherapy
- The service is teaching –oriented, as the Romanian special education system

DAY CARE CENTRE (October 2004 – present)

Purpose:

- Supporting the educational integration of the same beneficiaries
- Using specific therapies for each beneficiary's specific needs

Objectives: increasing functionality, developing personal autonomy, cognitive development, stimulation, socialization, developing abilities for adult life, increasing their quality of life and their degree of independence.

Partners: Evidenzfoundation- Arlesheim, CH, Cluj Local Council

DAY CARE CENTER

ACTIVITIES:

- assessment of special needs
- functional assessment of behavior,
- the development of behavioral intervention plan
- specific therapeutic interventions
- psychological and educational research

GOALS - the development of:

- Expressive verbal language, receptive language, nonverbal communications skills
- A functional symbolic communication system
- Social skills
- Engagement and flexibility in developmentally appropriate tasks and play
- Fine and gross motor skills
- Cognitive skills (also symbolic play and academic skills)
- Conventional/appropriate behaviors
- Independent organizational skills and skills for success in a regular classroom

COUNSELING CENTER (2005 – present)

Purpose: improving the quality of relationship within the family, parent counseling, developing co-therapeutic abilities.

Objective: developing co-therapeutic abilities, using specific intervention techniques within the family, context, increasing the feeling of auto-efficacy and control in parents regarding the issues related to the child, improving the quality of life of the family.

Partners: Romanian Federation of Curative Education, Cluj Local Council

Activities: family setting assessment, individual and group counseling sessions, textbooks for parents, workshops for developing co-therapeutic abilities, implementing the therapeutic-educational plan within the family context.

OUR RESULTS

- 3 new service providers for protection and education of disabled people were set up
- The beneficiaries had not been previously integrated in any type of protection or education service.
- Our beneficiaries have free access to our services
- After the assessment of the therapeutic and educational process we observed progress in communication, behavior and social interaction.
- Progress in abilities development and personal autonomy
- The parents are informed and involved in the therapeutic process
- Intervention plans have been developed and successfully implemented in the family context.
- We regularly organize workshops for parents in order for them to achieve co-therapeutic abilities

Key (GUIDING) words:

- Knowledge
- Perseverance
- Professionalism
- Partnerships (at all levels)
- Networking → common voice



Thank you!



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