

## Project Wings4Youth of Moldova

<b>Project name</b>	Wings4Youth of Moldova - Inclusive employability, peace and security among disadvantaged youth on both sides of the Nistru River
<b>Project number (ADA)</b>	8108-06/2020
<b>Duration of the project</b>	01.07.2021 – 31.12.2024
<b>Budget of the project</b>	EUR 385.064,00 (63% ADA 242,700 Euro; 37% Own funds: 142,364 Euro)
<b>Implementing organisations</b>	CONCORDIA Verein für Sozialprojekte Contact person: Caroline Lercher Tauber caroline.lercher-tauber@CONCORDIA.or.at +43 1 2128149-34
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### 1. Brief description of project

The "Wings4Youth of Moldova" project reflects the commitment of CONCORDIA Austria and its sister organisation in the Republic of Moldova to improving the personal and professional prospects of young care leavers (care leavers are young adults aged 16-25 who have grown up partly or entirely in family-like groups or foster families and are now leaving this protected environment to start a self-determined, independent life). The three-year project is implemented in four municipalities with significant support needs (Chisinau, Congaz, Nisporeni and Cosauti) and will gain in quality through international cooperation and a strategic partnership with Caritas Vienna, which carries out similar activities with young people in Transnistria.

Two ambitious goals guide the actors: first, to **increase employment opportunities for young care leavers**, and second, to **increase mutual trust, understanding and cooperation between young people, youth workers and governmental and non-governmental actors from both sides of the Nistru River**. Six expected results should demonstrate the achievement of the two objectives and further contribute to the achievement of SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17 as well as EU GAP II 2 and 10 - 15 in the Republic of Moldova. 1. effective support services for young care leavers to facilitate the transition to a self-determined life are in place 2. care leavers (with a particular focus on young women) are better able to integrate into the labour market and become economically independent 3. professionals are better able to support the transition for care leavers into self-employment 4. more favourable standards and regulations that promote socio-economic integration for young care leavers. 5. care leavers have a greater understanding and tolerance of different cultural and community perspectives thanks to increased exchanges between young people. 6. an improved socio-economic integration network on both sides of the Nistru River provides a platform for learning and exchange.

At least 80 young care leavers with increased vulnerability (56% women and 44% men) and at least 30 youth workers will be **directly** involved in the project activities and will be positively influenced in the long term. In addition, many more young care leavers, marginalised families, NGOs, the public sector and the business sector will benefit **indirectly** from this project.

The project is structured in five clusters of activities: a.) **a diverse range of workshops** for professional and personal development, complemented by individualised psychosocial and legal support; b.) opportunities for **peer learning and practice exchange** as well as study visits in different cultural and social contexts; c.) advocacy activities to engage care leavers in a sustainable way.) **advocacy activities** to support care leavers in their access to the labour market and in their further networking; d.) **training** to improve the knowledge and skills of professionals accompanying young people in their transition to self-employment; and e.) **cross-sectoral meetings with the business sector** to develop a sustainable basis for vocational training and employment of vulnerable young people.

**One in three young people in the Republic of Moldova is either unemployed or not in education.** Young women are even more likely to be affected than young men (34.8% and 23.2% respectively). In 2017, youth unemployment for people aged 15-34 even reached over 52%. At the age of 18, care leavers are more likely to be economically inactive, not in education and therefore socially marginalised or even homeless. The project addresses four causes that lead to this state of affairs: the skills mismatch between businesses and young adults, the migration of highly skilled workers - brain drain, the gap between theory and practice in supporting the out-of-care transition of young care leavers and, in addition, the limited skills, support and resources of employers to support care leavers in the labour market.

## 2. Description of CONCORDIA

CONCORDIA Verein für Sozialprojekte (hereafter CONCORDIA Austria) is an international, independent, non-governmental organisation dedicated to helping children, young people and families in need, towards an independent and responsible life. This is done in close collaboration with its sister associations in Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Kosovo and Germany. Together they represent CONCORDIA Social Projects (hereafter CONCORDIA).

Starting in 1991 with activities for street children in Bucharest, the CONCORDIA 'community' has since extended its services to embrace a much broader target group in Eastern Europe over the past 28 years. In 2019, CONCORDIA reached approximately 7500 people in its (until then) four project countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova and Austria).

With the overall goal to trigger sustainable positive changes in the lives of children, young people, adults and families they work with, CONCORDIA focuses on:

- Securing a functioning everyday life that offers protection, belonging and provision
- Fostering the capacities for self-determination and central „life skills“ (self-confidence, self-efficacy and social skills)

- Mobilising each individual's (creative) potential
- Fostering a secure bonding of children and youth (as an important pre-condition for the development of life skills)

To this end, CONCORDIA Social Projects works in the following programmatic areas: (1) alternative childcare; (2) support and care provisions for adults in need; (3) community-based intervention; (4) formal and non-formal educational; and (5) social business.

### 3. Description of local partner organisation

Our local partner for the “Wings4Youth”-project is our local sister organisation CONCORDIA Moldova. Set up in 2004, they are part of the international federation of CONCORDIA Social Projects, which involves five sister organisations in Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Germany and Moldova. WE ALL SHARE A COMMON VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGY.

CONCORDIA Moldova has one overall vision: to make a substantial contribution to the social integration of disadvantaged groups (children and families especially) – and in so doing, drive the whole country forward!

To that end, CONCORDIA Moldova runs direct services and capacity building programmes in about 60 localities across the country, annually providing social services to around 3,500 beneficiaries from socially vulnerable families, of which around 75% are women and children<sup>1</sup>.

CONCORDIA Moldova's main programme areas are:

- Alternative Childcare: residential care, foster care, family-based or family-like care placement, and supervised independent living arrangements for young people between 18 and 35 years;
- Adults Care Programmes: care provision for elderly people, temporary care provision for adults in difficult circumstances;
- Community-based Intervention Programmes: mobile social work, social assistance for families with children, support for mothers and children in difficult circumstances and support for mothers and children in detention, day-care services for children, young people and elderly people, leisure activities for children and young people, emergency support for adults in need;
- Education Programmes: after-school support, academic and professional training for social professions, and skills development through voluntary work.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2019, the exact figures were: 3.534 beneficiaries in total; about 50% were children and young people and 50% were adults and elderly people. Out of the total 1.994 were women.