



**concordia**  
SOCIAL PROJECTS



# CONCORDIA Social Projects

## Activity Report 2017/2018

# OUR MISSION



**CONCORDIA** is an international, independent aid organization dedicated to helping children, adolescents and families in need.

**CONCORDIA** helps quickly and directly on site. We go where the need is the greatest.

**CONCORDIA** enables children to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood. We focus on building stable ties and strengthening families.

**CONCORDIA** accompanies children and adolescents on their journey towards a self-determined life. We open chances through education and vocational training.

**CONCORDIA** is guided by the international conventions on children's and human rights. We contribute to creating an open, solidly united society.



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

“It took awhile until I got to know the children, won their trust [...]. They grew up in an environment that had seemed unimaginable for me up until then. The experiences with them allowed me to see [...] some things differently, shook me up. Several of the young people [...] have already died. They deserve not to be forgotten.”

These few lines from the book *Der Hoffnung ein Zuhause geben* (Giving Hope a Home), which Father Markus Inama, SJ wrote to mark the tenth anniversary of CONCORDIA in Bulgaria, contains so much of what CONCORDIA constitutes for us. The successes, as well as some failures, which also belong to social work—since many offers and chances are often necessary until the help sustainably takes hold. The trust so many young people place in us in the hope for a somewhat better life. And the individual, moving stories and fates, and at the same time the moving onward that does not cease.

As members of the CONCORDIA Social Projects board, it is important to us to continuously review our offers and social services regarding whether they remain faithful to our credo of “the child at the center of focus.” At times that also means placing existing structures into question and submitting to a process of change. Sometimes it is the conclusion that something new is needed and we have to develop additional measures. Such as CONCORDIA Bulgaria’s new day care and social center in Orlandvotzi, which we are currently building.

Many hands have to work together, many good hearts have to beat for CONCORDIA to make it possible for us to help. We therefore warmly thank the committed colleagues, the 299 volunteers who performed an incredible 30,934 hours of service in total. And we especially thank you, our faithful supporters, for enabling us to be there for 9,048 people in the year 2017 and to be able to help with one of our offers.

In gratitude for your active assistance and your trust,

Hans Peter Haselsteiner  
Chairman of the  
International Board

Father Markus Inama, SJ  
Member of the Board

Ulla Konrad  
Executive Chairperson

Ulla Konrad and Markus Inama – as board members, they have been jointly responsible for CONCORDIA for more than five years. Before that, both of them worked for the organization in a project country – What has changed since then and what will the future bring for CONCORDIA?

*What does your work with children and adolescents at CONCORDIA mean to you? What has changed for you in these five years?*

**Ulla Konrad:** Much has changed in the time at CONCORDIA and some things have remained the same – I think both are enormously important. The spirit of CONCORDIA, to focus on the needs of children and adolescents, and to build an organization around it, this has remained the same for me. What has further developed is simply the knowledge about the optimal care and supervision of the children, and we try to take this into account. This means, for example, that we are more involved in preventive work, that we do not remove children from the family for reasons of poverty, but that we strengthen their ties with them – a very important topic area. And to react stronger to the traumas the children have experienced.

**Markus Inama:** I think 2012 was a time of change and it was important back then to decide what we wanted to take along from what was before and how we want to shape the organization in the future. In retrospect, my impression is that getting the organization through this phase of change succeeded well. A great international team has emerged, one in which we mutually consider how we can best help the children and adolescents.

The relationship between pedagogy and spirituality and how they are to relate to each other has also been rethought – and I believe that was also one of the



questions we dealt with during this time and solved well, too. From my point of view, the spirituality folder, in which a few strategic considerations are also presented, was important. What does spirituality have to do with education, and how can this be reconciled? By doing so, we have a wealth of methodologies, home grown at CONCORDIA, that anyone can use in their work.

*You both worked in Bulgaria or Romania before your time as board members. What has changed and what have you taken with you from your early days?*

**Markus Inama:** I think that especially in Bulgaria the team has changed positively. The tension with the state institutions has dissolved and there is good cooperation. This may also be due to the fact that two Bulgarian employees manage the business there, who naturally work closely with us. But they are Bulgarians, and the authorities may therefore see CONCORDIA a little more as a Bulgarian project. For me personally, the country is still a piece of home, which has to do with the language that I acquired with great effort. And there is also a bit of wistfulness, because I am reminded of the early years during my visits, and, above all, I am grateful for what has arisen from these small beginnings.

**Ulla Konrad:** I'm from the social field, I'm a psychologist. But the openness that I experienced in my work at Sf. Lazar in Bucharest, the way the young people interact with each other and the yearning for attention, has incredibly touched me and has changed me as a





human being as well. Perhaps more than everything else I've experienced before. And it still influences my work, because I know what great challenges our employees face every day in working together with often very difficult clients.

*What changes are planned for the next few years? What could CONCORDIA look like in ten years?*

**Ulla Konrad:** We now put a lot of emphasis on the independence of the young people, so that they can master their lives alone. It takes job coaching, it needs a good school and we are offering more opportunities for training. For example, we will build an inclusive elementary school in Romania and professionalize the vocational school for the young people. We are considering building a system of early help for the very small children we care for in families.

In the next few years we are planning to continue to network well within the organization, to exchange know-how internally and externally. Now we are working in

the field of advocacy, where the voice for children and adolescents is raised through legal initiatives. We are currently working with attorneys to give children and young people a voice that is also heard by the state. As an adult education institution, we also want to continue to transport our extensive know-how – be it directly in dealing with children and adolescents, but also in issues such as social management and supervision. And we also want to focus more on partnerships and cooperation in this area.

**Markus Inama:** Something that I think is already emerging is that, hopefully, there will be more programs and services like ours, which we will implement in collaboration with the public sector. This may mean that there will be fewer CONCORDIA houses, but more of our way of working, our access to the youth. That maybe in ten years' time, our approach – like the way we deal with the children, how we stand for social work – will become more and more widespread. And that this CONCORDIA spirit will continue to grow.



## SUSTAINABLE FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE

CONCORDIA Social Projects is a network of a non-profit foundation based in Vienna and four – likewise non-profit – sister organizations in Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Germany. We support children, adolescents and families in need through rapid and direct help.

Our work is determined by five targets, which are based primarily on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations) oriented towards child protection rights and human rights.

### GROWING UP IN THE FAMILY OF ORIGIN

A child develops best in his/her own family. That is why we support vulnerable families in their manifold problems and try to prevent the children from being separated from their relatives.

We offer a multifaceted program of recreational pedagogy and tutoring at our day care centers catered to the individual needs of children. In addition, mobile teams work with their parents to help solve various problems. This holistic approach is designed to ensure that families master difficult challenges together – and that children grow up in their families of origin.  
\*\* (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 2)

### NO POVERTY

Through early interventions we try to break the cycle of poverty for children and families. Mobile multidisciplinary teams identify the most affected families in the communities. Together with those affected, they create tailor-made plans for their further development. Often we help these families satisfy their basic needs such as nutrition, education and medical care for the first time (Goal 1 of the SDGs).

### QUALITY EDUCATION

We help young people gain access to quality education. For children who cannot expect support from their family, it is a great challenge to choose an educational path and to complete it. Therefore, we not only

help with the selection of the school, but also accompany the children until the end of their education by supporting them in both school-related and personal problems (Goal 4 of the SDGs).

### ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

An important goal is that young people and families can lead an autonomous and self-determined life. Economic independence is a significant part of this process. CONCORDIA provides support through day care centers for children, counseling and professional coaching so parents can regain a foothold in the working world.

In addition, we offer young people who were previously unable to complete training due to personal difficulties the opportunity to attend our vocational schools and a sheltered working environment in social initiatives (Goal 8 of the SDGs).

### REDUCING INEQUALITY

In our project countries we deal with structural and systemic mismatches. We develop concrete strategies and programs to identify and support people who are on the margins of society. We contribute to a more social society by helping to identify discriminatory policies, norms and behaviors. In our project countries, CONCORDIA is a strong partner, always on the side of needy people (Goal 10 of the SDGs).

\* Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations, 2015

\*\* Convention on the right of a child, United Nations, 1990





Growing up in the family of origin – this is not possible for many children and adolescents in CONCORDIA facilities. Their families are broken for a variety of reasons – violence, drug problems, or excessive demands on their parents. To give them a sheltered growing up anyway, CONCORDIA offers these children a safe and secure home where caregivers and foster parents take care of them.



## SUPERVISED EMERGENCY RESIDENTIAL GROUPS

When children have to leave their families in acute family crises, they are placed in assisted housing groups. They live together in small groups there, and a team of experts takes on the responsibilities of the family of origin: From the organization of everyday life to the psychological care of children, who often have traumatic experiences behind them, the team is available to them at any time. If the situation stabilizes, some children can return to their families of origin. If this is not possible, CONCORDIA offers a choice of accommodation options for each of them – depending on the needs of the child.

## CHILDREN'S FARM

An international directive from the EU requires that children be accommodated in smaller units than before (the number varies from country to country). Optimal care for the individual child can only be guaranteed in this way. For this reason, CONCORDIA projects were reviewed in 2017 for compliance with these guidelines. For some projects – including one of the oldest, the “Children’s Farm” – therefore, major changes have been initiated: The residential groups of the farm are gradually being restructured with the aim of housing the children in smaller units, thus better integrating them into the village communities. This process will be completed by the end of 2018.

## FAMILY-LIKE RESIDENTIAL GROUPS

In family-like residential groups, children and adolescents live together with trained caregivers in a CONCORDIA house. A maximum of ten children and adolescents can be cared for in this way.



**TATYANA\*** is a lively 12-year-old girl. She lives in a family-like residential group in the small town of Bozhuriste, near Sofia. When Tatyana came to us, she was scared and very angry. She isolated herself from the other children and hurt herself. Occasional visits to her family exacerbated her anger and she heftily rebelled against the rules in the house. It took a

long time for the caregivers to gain Tatyana’s trust and it became clear to them that she would not be able to return to her family of origin. She has meanwhile made great progress; she likes being with us and her grades have improved quickly. She dreams of becoming a hairdresser and was overjoyed when she got a hair-dressing set for Christmas. She is

sure that with the support of the team of caregivers her dream will come true.

\* In order to protect personal rights, all the names of supervised persons were changed in this report.

## PLACEMENT IN A FOSTER FAMILY

More and more children are finding a new home in a long-term CONCORDIA foster family. The foster parents often bring their biological children with them; up to seven children can live together in a household. The parents are carefully selected by CONCORDIA and undergo thorough training. This ensures that they are able to care for their foster children in the best possible way and to give them a good start into a self-determined life.

They are accompanied by mobile CONCORDIA teams consisting of social workers and psychologists. These teams support caregivers in their day-to-day challenges, but also encourage contact with the family of origin because it is important for children to know their own roots.



**DIAMANTA** and **ION** have long been working as foster parents and have many years of experience with children from difficult backgrounds.

At present they are living with six children, five of whom are siblings, in a family house. Before that, the siblings lived with their mother and

## SUPERVISED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES FOR ADOLESCENTS/ YOUNG ADULTS

One of our big goals is that adolescents and young adults can go their own way and live independently. In order to give them the opportunity to test their independence, CONCORDIA offers sheltered shared apartments as a transitional form in which they live autonomously. They are accompanied and supported by a mobile team of female and male social workers who visit them on a regular basis. Each of these adolescents has a fixed reference caregiver who will assist with educational offers and job search issues and guide them into independent living.

Care services for adolescents and young adults at CONCORDIA range from separate living units to rooms in affordable residential groups for young adults who are already working, but cannot afford their own accommodation yet.

In the house of kindness, the children experience what it feels like to grow up in an intact family.

her companion in a completely desolate house. The adults did not care about the children. When drunk, they let out their anger and despair by beating and verbally attacking them. Pavel, the sixth foster child in the family house, also has a sad past. The mother left the family when Pavel was still a baby and her whereabouts are unknown. His father was convicted of rape a few years later, when Pavel was still quite small. At Ion and Diamanta's, Pavel, Ana, Aliona and Vera, as well as Vasile and Gabriel, have found a safe home with experienced foster parents and are now growing up in a non-violent environment.



BILLY  
BULLDOZER





In addition to working in the children and youth sector, CONCORDIA is also committed to helping adults – the elderly, adults in emergencies and persons with disabilities. The offers range from short-term support in the form of temporary housing and emergency accommodation to full-service housing for people with disabilities. The aim is not only to provide those affected by existential emergencies with short-term help in the form of food and shelter, but also to support them in resuming an active lifestyle and participating in social life.

### EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR (YOUNG) ADULTS

At CONCORDIA, young adults who live on the street find accommodation for the night and the possibility to wash themselves. They get a hot meal and clean clothes. They receive help with medical and personal problems to give them the chance to stabilize themselves.

Some of the young adults make the leap out of this situation again to a more stable life. In our emergency shelters, they are supported according to their need and at their own request in the search for an apartment, a job or also dealing with various authorities.



### MEDICAL HELP IN SF. LAZAR

In recent years, the medical problems of homeless young adults in Bucharest have noticeably increased. That is why CONCORDIA Romania has entered into cooperation with the ALIAT clinic, which specializes in working with homeless addicts. In 2017, 48 adolescents and young adults participated in consultations and therapies.

# OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS



## TEMPORARY HELP FOR ADULTS IN EMERGENCIES

In a mental and economic emergency situation, adults sometimes are no longer able to look after themselves. Then they need a helping hand to get their life under control again. CONCORDIA provides transitional housing and shelters for adults in these emergencies until they have regained their social and mental toehold. In preparation for the resumption of independent living, we support social work, personal counseling and job hunting in order to enable a speedy reintegration.

## SUPERVISION AND CARE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

Old people often stay alone when their families move abroad to find work. It is difficult for these senior citizens to take care of themselves, and they grow lonely very quickly. CONCORDIA offers housing at the social centers and a social network. Ideally, relatives can be found to take care of these older people and to whom they can then move. In caring for senior citizens, CONCORDIA promotes an “active aging” philosophy and helps the affected people keep themselves physically and mentally fit.

**VERA** is an elderly woman who lives alone. Her children have not lived in their area for a long time and she does not own a house. Until recently, she was staying with a nephew, who has since moved abroad. Vera had been used to taking care of herself, doing her housework and gardening

on her own. However, last year Vera was blinded by a serious illness and she could no longer handle the daily challenges alone. Together with the authorities, CONCORDIA Moldova was able to help Vera quickly: She was given a place at the multi-functional center in Pleșeni and she was over-



joyed when she was able to move in with her belongings. Vera now finds support, care, attention and understanding for her needs here.



## FULLY SUPERVISED RESIDENTIAL LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with severe mental or physical illnesses find little lasting support in our project countries. Often they are simply locked away in a clinic and are more or less left to their own devices. At CONCORDIA, we offer fully assisted living, day-to-day help and a work-related structure, depending on the individual abilities of the person concerned. A showcase project is Casa Hannes in Bucharest, where five women between the ages of 18 and 35 live. During the day, they work in a therapeutic workshop at CONCORDIA, where they produce different products, some of which are sold.



# SUPERVISION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

A child or teenager is best kept in the family of origin. In order to enable young people to grow up with their parents, CONCORDIA implements interventions at an early stage so that it does not even have to come to a removal.

We mediate in conflict situations, support the parents with parenting advice as well job coaching and have numerous offers for young people.

## STREETWORK AND OUTREACH SOCIAL WORK

Not everyone manages to seek help – out of shame, lack of knowledge or physical inability. That's why our social workers go to the families and offer help. The offers of assistance are accepted only when a basis of trust has been formed. CONCORDIA staff gets to know people in their familiar surroundings and thereby better assess what is missing and how CONCORDIA can help with tailor-made offers. The issues they face are very different: questions about the education and training of children, help in obtaining documents, financial or material support, and much more.

## JOB COACHING FOR ADULTS

It is particularly important to support young people and adults in their search for employment, because the families can only stay together permanently if financial security is guaranteed. CONCORDIA assists with the preparation of documents, helps with the search for training, and practices communicative and social skills for job interviews with those affected. In addition, CONCORDIA employees also take on job placement activities by actively seeking employment and jobs for our beneficiaries.

## SUPERVISION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Children aged three and over are nurtured by CONCORDIA according to their individual needs. In kindergarten or preschool, we playfully prepare them for school by, among other things, promoting their independence, emotional and social skills in the group, as well as their language skills. For the older children, in addition to support for learning, we also offer meaningful leisure activities (music, creative and sporting activities) and hot meals in the afternoons. We also take care of the children during the summer and organize summer camps both in the children's home country and abroad.

## DAY CENTER FOR ELDERLY ADULTS

After the departure of their families, many elderly people live completely alone in their often barely habitable homes. We offer them the opportunity to have a hot meal in our day centers and spend the day together with other older people from the area. Often, these centers also look after children who enjoy playing, painting and tinkering with the seniors. CONCORDIA offers a family environment that they can no longer find in their homes.



# CHANCES THROUGH EDUCATION

Education and training mean opportunities for everyone to lead a self-determined life – that’s why CONCORDIA’s work has a strong focus on this theme. We advocate a holistic understanding of education, which should not only convey basic skills such as reading, writing or mathematical proficiency. We also encourage the development of key competences, such as creativity, social responsibility or self-initiative, which later help young people find work and become part of society.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN KINDERGARTEN

Early childhood education and care form the basis for a child to successfully complete his/her education later. Especially children from difficult backgrounds receive little family and social support and fostering, which can lead to difficulties, including early school leaving. That’s why CONCORDIA’s child-friendly promotion starts in kindergarten. This strengthens the children’s learning and individual resources in order to give them a better start in life.

## EXTRACURRICULAR SUPERVISION

In our out-of-school offerings, we primarily offer children support in school matters, but also in occupations that are geared to their individual interests and desires. What is important to us is the promotion of creative expression, sport and movement, but also respectful cooperation in the form of social learning and inclusion. Sports and exercise provide the children and young people with a balance to their often difficult everyday life. The aim is to accompany them as well as possible in their school life and to enable them to progress in their education.

## BASIC EDUCATION FOR YOUNGSTERS

In our basic education courses in Austria, we work with adolescents who are either not yet admitted to the asylum procedure or whose procedures are still pending. Besides learning German at the A2 level, we also teach them basic skills in other subjects such as mathematics and IT. In addition, the LenZ learning and family center supports the adolescents in many other questions concerning working and living, and also tries to familiarize them with life and culture in Austria in the form of excursions.

## EDUCATION IN THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

By learning a vocation such as a cook, waiter/waitress, gardener or baker, we offer young people who have failed in other educational institutions due to a variety of problems the possibility of vocational training in Romania. Our Austrian school abroad operates on a dual model, with the Ministry of Education, Science and Research providing Austrian teachers. In order to prevent premature dropouts, it is important for us to promote social learning and the ability of our young people to communicate. Thanks to this





AURORA came to us as a small, fragile child from a large family. Her parents were already separated at that time. She was only one year old when she was brought from the state orphanage in Ploiești to CONCORDIA Romania. She grew up on the Children's Farm in Aricești, where she also attended the local school. From there she moved to the Casa Eva and was also able to attend high school in Ploiești on account of her good academic achievements. Aurora has always enjoyed learning and standing up for weaker ones. Her dream is to work with children and people in emergencies

and one day run a social center. That's why she worked very hard to get a scholarship for training as a qualified nurse in Ravensburg. She still has very little contact with her parents, who could not take care of her as a child. She wants to become independent by her own efforts and build her own career.



intensive personal support, we can open up new opportunities for young people who otherwise would not receive further training.

## CONCORDIA ACADEMIA

In 2017, the CONCORDIA Academia was founded in Romania together with Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences and the Vorarlberg State Government. The aim is to raise the quality of social work in the CONCORDIA project countries through training and further education; and to better prepare the graduates for their work. The following types of training courses are offered to CONCORDIA employees, but also to social workers from other NGOs: management, supervision and internships in the social sector. 93 people completed their training at the CONCORDIA Academia in 2017. Other partners were also found during this period – Cardinal König Haus, Erasmus, EURODIR and the Romanian College for Social Work. Together we will define new standards in social work in the coming years.





# CONCORDIA SOCIAL BUSINESS

CONCORDIA opens up new opportunities for adolescents and young adults through education and vocational training. For some young people, the path to a self-determined life is more difficult than for others due to traumatic experiences. In our social business projects, they find a job after training, where they can gain experience and be prepared for a job on the job market.

A social business project at CONCORDIA aims at the independence of the young people. It has to fulfill two criteria: It has a social mission and has to generate at least 50% of its annual budget through sales or services itself. Especially teenagers from difficult families get an opportunity to gain professional practice in these projects and CONCORDIA supports them until they are fit for the labor market.

## BREAD & BREAKFAST – HOSTEL BUCHAREST

In the fall of 2017, Concordia Romania opened a hostel and a coffee shop in downtown Bucharest at the site that is eponymous for the association: the Piata Concordiei. Seven vulnerable youths receive a steady employment and on-the-job training; ten more can complete an internship. The project was selected right from the start for cooperation with the city of Bucharest. Rooms at the Bread & Breakfast Hostel can be booked directly online at: <http://breadandbreakfast.ro/>



## CONCORDIA BAKERY

In addition to supplying all CONCORDIA facilities in Romania with bread, there are also many loyal customers, such as kindergartens and schools, to whom we supply our products. IKEA, another large and well-known customer, was able to be gained in 2017. Our bakery produced around 4,000 smiley biscuits sold at the IKEA restaurants.

## CONCORDIA AGRICULTURE

Like the bakery, Ploiești's agriculture also covers CONCORDIA Romania's own needs, but also sells the products to companies in the region. We are particularly pleased that we were able to increase the range of our products from nine to 20 during 2017.

## CONCORDIA CANDLE WORKSHOP



In 2017, more than 5,000 candles were made and new sales channels opened at the Christmas markets in Sofia. Well-known companies such as DHL, Deutsche Telekom or the Societe Generale Group are already loyal buyers of our handcrafted works of art.

## CONCORDIA HAIRDRESSING SALON

Since 2010, CONCORDIA Bulgaria has been operating the hairdressing salon in Sofia. In 2016, this social business moved to a better frequented location and since then has been able to increase its customer base.



**MARCU ANA, (12 years old) sings with us in the CONCORDIA children's choir, with whom she can also play with in her free time – later she would like to become a music teacher herself.**





## THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

In 2017, 299 volunteers performed a total of 30,934 hours of volunteer work in the four project countries. Among them again this year were numerous young men doing their alternative military service as well as German and Austrian volunteers. In 2017, 95 volunteers actively supported the work of CONCORDIA at the Learning and Family Center in Vienna.

In the Republic of Moldova, CONCORDIA began building up and accrediting a local volunteer program in August – many volunteers have since contributed to our programs.

In Bulgaria, one of the national volunteers won the “Inspiration Prize” at the National Award for Volunteering.

A very special week was the Volunteer Taster Week in Romania in July, which was very busy and was an unforgettable experience for both children and volunteers.

A big thank you to all national and international volunteers, as well as former volunteers who accompanied and supported CONCORDIA in 2017!



“I came across CONCORDIA through acquaintances and decided to do my alternative military service in Sofia. I could only guess what that meant. Since I had never worked with children before, I was really looking forward to my new job. It started right after the language course and I was immediately involved in daily life. I tried to adopt as much socio-educational knowledge from my new colleagues as possible. We had many funny and beautiful, but also difficult times together. When we said goodbye to each other, I realized how valuable volunteering could be for both sides. In Sofia I acquired a lot of knowledge in the field of social work, learned a new language, found

good friends and got to know a new culture. I am sure that both the children and the volunteers in the project countries can take a lot with them from this exchange. Based on my experience, I am convinced that every young, open person can really benefit from a foreign assignment with CONCORDIA!”

Georg Hollinetz, 22, did his alternative military service at Sveti Konstantin in Sofia.

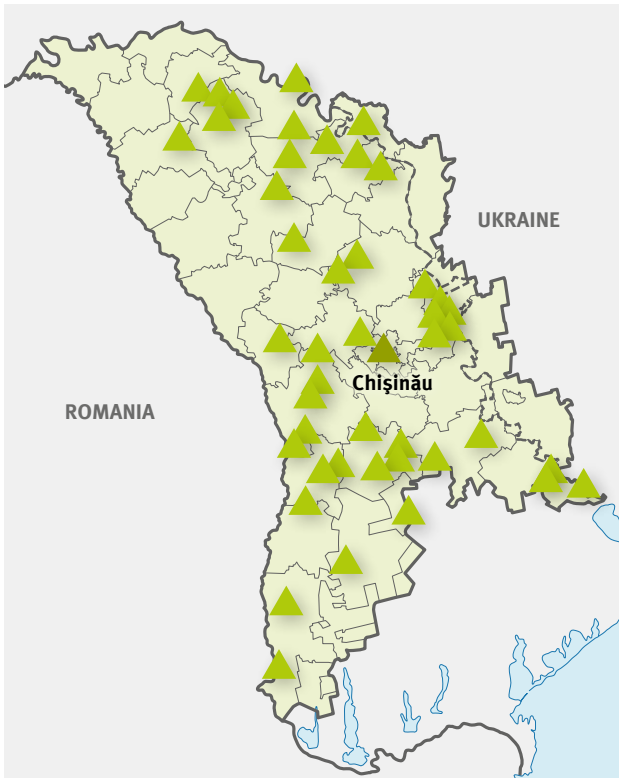




The broad spectrum of aid provided by CONCORDIA Social Projects is made up of various offers that overlap. Usually, many people use more than one of them. In 2017, CONCORDIA Social Projects reached a total of 9,048 people with at least one help offer. In detail, there were 1,930 in Romania, 5,904 in the Republic of Moldova, 613 in Bulgaria and 601 in Austria.



## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



**Life Expectancy:** 71 years (AUT: 81.6 years)

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 12 deaths per 1,000 live births (AUT: 3.4)

**Youth Unemployment Rate:** 25.4% (AUT: 11.2%)

**CONCORDIA Founding Year:** 2004

Sources: The World Factbook 2018, eurostat

The great poverty in the Republic of Moldova especially affects children in rural areas. Water, food and access to sanitary facilities are often lacking there – six percent of children under the age of 5 are struggling with chronic malnutrition. High labor migration also has fatal consequences: As many parents only find employment abroad, children often stay behind. Of every fifth child, at least one biological parent lives abroad. CONCORDIA works for socially disadvantaged groups, always striving to protect children and promote family cohesion.



PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>ACCOMODATION WORK WITH THE ELDERLY AND FAMILIES</b>				
Social Center Sănătăuca	Sănătăuca	2008	12	17
Social Center Dubăsarii Vechi	Dubăsarii Vechi	2008	14	21
Social Center Tudora	Tudora	2008	14	22
Social Center Pleșeni	Pleșeni	2008	12	21
Social Center Taraclia	Taraclia	2008	14	19
Social Center Văleni	Văleni	2007	14	28
Social Center Congaz	Congaz	2008	14	25
Social Center Nisporeni	Nisporeni	2010	14	2
Social Center Cosăuți	Soroca	2017	10	18



PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>ACCOMODATION CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS</b>				
Family-like residential group Casa CONCORDIA	Chişinău	2004	21	22
Family-like residential group Casa Rebeca	Târnova	2015	15	10
Family-like residential group Casa Bunătăţii	Cahul	2016	7	6
Supervised Living Casa Ignatius	Chişinău	2017	18	17
Casa Comunitară - Casa Prieteniei	Doroţcaia	2015	9	11
Family House Casa Norocului	Basara-beasca	2015	7	6
Family House Casa Ataşamentului	Căuşeni	2015	4	3
Family House Casa Dezvoltării	Chişinău	2015	14	11
Family House Casa Înţelepciunii	Cimişlia	2015	7	5
Family House Casa Înţelegerii	Cimişlia	2015	4	4
Family House Casa Încrederii	Cojuşna	2015	7	8
Family House Casa Fericirii	Coşniţa	2015	7	5
Family House Casa Curajului	Criuleni	2015	7	9
Family House Casa Creativităţii	Criuleni	2015	7	8
Family House Casa Siguranţei	Şoldăneşti	2015	7	5
Social apartments for students	Chişinău	2015	22	14
<b>FAMILY WORK AND SOCIAL SUPPORT</b>				
Parenting and counseling				1.811
Food recipients in the 16 social centers / 18 soup kitchens				1.039
Deliveries of meals				1.547
Material support				2.049
Food packages				617
Household assistance				443
Leisure time activities				1.220
Repairs (residential houses)				7
Firewood				30
Farm animal program				82
Work with relatives				260
Washing possibilities for clients				277
Medical advice/dentist				513

# ROMANIA



**Life Expectancy:** 75.4 years (AUT: 81.6 years)

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 9.4 deaths per 1.000 live births (AUT: 3.4)

**At-Risk-of-Poverty Rate for Children:** 46.8% (AUT: 22.3%)

**Youth Unemployment Rate:** 20.6% (AUT: 11.2%)

**CONCORDIA Founding Year:** 1991

Sources: The World Factbook 2018, Eurostat

According to the Child and Youth Opportunity Index, Romania remains at the bottom of the EU. Almost half (46.8%) of all children and adolescents are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and the country is lagging behind in equal opportunities in education. Thanks to CONCORDIA, children and young people from difficult backgrounds are offered new perspectives: Their social-educational support as well as training and employment opportunities help them to find their way into an independent, self-determined life.



PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>ACCOMODATION</b>				
City of the Children with family-like children's residential groups Casa Augustin, Casa Leopold, Casa Uniqa	Ploiești	2001	28	28
Children's Farm with family-like children's residential groups Casa Elisabeth, Casa Bunul Pastor, Casa Arh. Mihail, Casa Sf. Ignatiu, Casa Caroline, Casa Iosif, Casa Toma, Casa Viena und Casa Renate	Ariceștii Rahtivani	1992	72	70
Family-like children's residential groups in Casa Austria	Ploiești	2000	24	33
Supervised youth residential group Casa Eva	Ploiești	2005	27	32
Supervised youth residential groups Apprentices' Home Casa Abraham, Casa Montafon	Ploiești	2009	40	72
Family-like children's residential group Casa Ursula	Ariceștii	2017	6	6
Casa Iuda (Social apartments)	București	2009	21	20
Supervised residential groups for mentally ill young adults Casa Hannes	București	2015	6	5
Supervised living for young people Casa Sf. Paul	București	1999	30	55
Night shelter at the Sf. Lazar Social Center	București	2002	60	376

# PROJECTS 2017/2018

PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>TRAINING AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>				
Job coaching Casa Sf. Paul	București	2013		200
Tutoring Casa Cristina	Ploiești	2013	36	40
Tutoring Casa Alexandra	Ploiești	2015	36	52
Therapeutic workshop Casa Iuda	București	2015	6	5
Kindergarten Mimi	Ploiesti	2015		49
CONCORDIA Vocational School for cooks (1-year)	Ploiești	2010	16	37
CONCORDIA Vocational School for waiters/waitresses (1-year)	Ploiesti	2010	20	21
CONCORDIA Vocational School for joiners (1-year)	Ploiești	2010	16	24
CONCORDIA Vocational School for gardeners (1-year)	Ploiești	2016	14	10
CONCORDIA Vocational School for bakers (1-year)	Ploiești	2015	14	10
Hostel and Coffee Shop	București	2017	17	3

PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>FAMILY WORK AND STREETWORK</b>				
Therapy Center Casa Cristina	Ploiești	2013		76
Day Care Center Casa Cristina	Ploiești	2013		95
Therapy Center Casa Alexandra	Ploiești	2015		89
Day Care Center Casa Alexandra	Ploiești	2015		163
Streetwork/Prison Social Work	București	2002		195
Streetwork	Ploiești	2013		164

## AUSTRIA



PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>TRAINING AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>				
Tutoring	Vienna	2016	20	23
Basic education	Vienna	2016	10	21
Integration work (language café)	Vienna	2016		489
Family work	Vienna	2016		68

This project is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.



Funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection



Against the background of current migration movements and the multifaceted challenges faced by disadvantaged groups on the labor market, there is also a lot for CONCORDIA to do in Austria. Especially for children whose mother tongue is not German, school attendance can be difficult. That is why LenZ offers these children support in the afternoon through tutoring.

# BULGARIA



**Lebenserwartung:** 74,7 Jahre (AUT: 81,6 Jahre)

**Life Expectancy:** 74.7 years (AUT: 81.6 years)

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 8.4 deaths per 1,000 live births (AUT: 3.4)

**At-Risk-of-Poverty Rate for Children:** 43.7% (AUT: 22.3%)

**Youth Unemployment Rate:** 17.2% (AUT: 11.2%)

Sources: The World Factbook 2018, Eurostat

39% of Bulgarians cannot afford to heat their homes sufficiently in winter. In the country which, with an average gross monthly income of about 400 Euros, is still the poorest in the EU, the children and the elderly are particularly affected. More than a third (36.1%) of under-18s are affected by material deprivation. CONCORDIA is committed to the care and integration of young people from marginalized communities with a wide range of support services from emergency shelters to assisted living groups.



PROJECT/FACILITY/OFFER	TOWN	SINCE	PLACES	CLIENTS
<b>ACCOMODATION</b>				
Night shelter Zdravei at Sveti Konstantin Social Center	Sofia	2008	22	132
Family-like children's residential group	Bozhuriste	2014	12	14
Supervised transitional residential group for children and adolescents	Sofia	2009	12	15
Residential group "Shelter" for children and adolescents	Sofia	2009	12	14
Supervised transitional residential group for adolescents & young adults	Sofia	2014	10	8
Supervised youth residence Timok	Sofia	2014	4	3
<b>FAMILY WORK AND STREETWORK</b>				
Street work/mobile family work	Sofia	2008		178
Day Care Center for disadvantaged children	Sofia	2009	25	19
Day Care Center Sveti Konstantin	Sofia	2016	25	70
Day Care Center Zaharna Fabrika	Sofia	2017	50	85
CONCORDIA Soccer Club	Sofia	2015		61
<b>TRAINING AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>				
CONCORDIA Hairdresser's Shop	Sofia	2010	4	11
CONCORDIA Candle Workshop	Sofia	2015	3	3



## A FRESH COAT OF PAINT

Extensive renovations were begun at Casa Abraham in 2017. At the vocational school, socially disadvantaged young people acquire important professional skills. Thanks to the conversion work, the social contribution we are making in this way will be further enhanced: In the future, training in carpentry and agriculture will take place at higher-quality facilities and the placement of pupils will be improved. Graduates of the vocational school are offered accommodation and the best possible support in their search for work after graduation in the form of “social apartments.”



## LIVELY PROGRAM

At the CONCORDIA benefit concert on September 28, 2017 in Bucharest, a diverse musical program by our children awaited visitors. Around 300 guests accepted the invitation to the Odeon Theater, including prominent ones such as Princess Maria of Romania and Gerhard Reiweger, the Austrian Ambassador to Bucharest. The violinist Alexandru Tomescu enthralled concert-goers with pieces by Bach and Beethoven, among others. The program was moderated by the well-known Romanian journalist Irina Păcurariu. The surprise of the evening was an appearance of the CONCORDIA Romania Children’s Choir.



## DISTINGUISHED FOR EXCELLENCE

The efforts and offers in the CONCORDIA project countries received great recognition once again in 2017: In March, we were honored at the United Way Gala 2017 for our major successes in the field of integration (“Change a life, transform a community”). In November, CONCORDIA Academia was given the “Outstanding Service in the Mental Health Field Award” for the quality of its training programs. The pantomime presentation on the topic of children’s rights (“We decide on our own, there are no walls”) by a group of socially disadvantaged youths under the direction of Costin Nedelcu was honored as the best artistic achievement at the “International Festival of Theater.” Lucian Biru received another major award and was honored as the best social worker in the field of homeless assistance.



## LOOKING FORWARD

On October 3–4, 2017, the international conference “Challenges and Solutions for the Sustainability of Social Services in the Republic of Moldova” took place in Chişinău. This event was organized by CONCORDIA Social Projects in cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and the Embassy of Austria in the Republic of Moldova. In summary, the participants adopted a position paper in which the key players pledged to take effective measures to ensure access to high-quality and sustainable social services for the people of the Republic of Moldova.



## SOCCKER BRINGS YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER

Encouraging children and adolescents from rural areas to have an active, healthy lifestyle is the goal of a new CONCORDIA Moldova project. This initiative was made possible by a generous donation from the UEFA Foundation for Children, which allowed CONCORDIA Moldova to benefit from a successful cooperation with the Moldovan Football Federation. A number of activities were implemented as part of the project, including soccer matches and other sporting activities with the children, who were also happy about receiving new equipment. In addition, new playgrounds and sports facilities will be built, enabling CONCORDIA to make an active contribution to the further development of sports and soccer in the region.



## HOPEFUL NEW START

CONCORDIA Moldova had two important, pioneering openings on the 2017 agenda. Thanks to the support of local authorities and generous donations to CONCORDIA, two facilities were officially inaugurated: the “Casa Ignatius” youth center on June 1 and a multifunctional center in Dorotcaia on November 24. These multifunctional centers provide children and young people with a safe and friendly environment in which they are not only provided with the essentials, but can also participate in educational programs and make new friends.



## IN A SOCIAL HOTSPOT

The social center “Zaharna Fabrika” is located near a large mahala, in a district characterized by social isolation, poor living conditions and unemployment. CONCORDIA Bulgaria took over the center in the west of Sofia in 2017 on behalf of Sofia City Council and offers comprehensive services to children and their families. The goal is to promote integration, the learning of new skills and individual development. Since October 2017, an experienced team consisting of social workers, a therapist and a speech therapist has been working with the children and families there. During this period, CONCORDIA Bulgaria has already helped 71 children and 73 adults.



## IN GOOD COMPANY

The CONCORDIA youth and social center “Sveti Konstantin” already looks back upon a long history: Since 2008, many care projects in Sofia have come together here to the benefit of families and children from at-risk groups. In the scope of renovations, the center was expanded and reopened in 2017. Since August it has been receiving financial support from the City of Sofia. For children from the nearby Roma neighborhoods, “Sveti Konstantin” is an inviting sanctuary where they are supported with different offers such as warm meals or tutoring together with peers.



## RIGHT DOWN TO A HAIR

A special highlight for the residents and volunteers at “Sveti Konstantin” was the visit of the German “Barber Angels Brotherhood.” Thanks to the support of CONCORDIA Germany, more than 50 children, adolescents and family members received a new haircut from the talented hair artists. Among others, well-known football stars served as styling role models. Particularly motivating for the CONCORDIA trainees was a hairdressing workshop held the following afternoon, where they could put their skills to the test and were rewarded with a special certificate.





## WITH YOUR OWN EYES

To witness great emergencies and difficult circumstances first hand and to be able to aptly report about it – CONCORDIA Germany enabled several media representatives to do that in two of the project countries. In March, a group of German journalists traveled to the Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria. Particularly in the context of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Bulgaria, the interest in the social situation in this country was great. It is also invaluable for the employees of CONCORDIA from Germany and Austria to be able to present the importance of their work directly in these two countries.

In June, our Board of Trustees and Executive Board members traveled to Moldova, where they visited social centers and attended the official opening of the new youth center (“Casa Ignatius”) in Chisinau.

## IN DEMAND

In June, the Board Chairperson of the CONCORDIA Social Projects Foundation Germany, Thomas Birtel, made himself available to some media representatives for interviews. He gave fascinating insights into the background of CONCORDIA in Germany and reported on the board of trustees’ trip to the Republic of Moldova, which had just been completed a few days before the meeting. Thomas Birtel also talked about the personal motivation behind his many years of commitment to CONCORDIA Social Projects. The discussion provided the perfect setting for providing journalists with deep insights into the work of CONCORDIA and answering questions on current projects.

## „MAY GOD BLESS YOU”

Among other things, generous donors enabled the construction of two new CONCORDIA playgrounds in Moldova as well as the funding of baker training in one of our vocational schools in Romania. Regardless of the level of their support, all stakeholders have made an important contribution to improving the living conditions of people in the CONCORDIA project countries and opening new perspectives for them.

We thank our partner

**ZÜBLIN**  
TEAMS WORK.



2017 was another year of musical highlights for CONCORDIA: With the aim of giving children a perspective through art, we invited our companions and supporters in Austria to a series of musical events.



## ENCORE FOR A SUCCESS STORY

Motivated by the great success in the previous year, CONCORDIA also extended invitations to a charity matinée as part of the Tyrol Festival. Thanks to the great support of Maestro Gustav Kuhn and the Festival Orchestra, more than 700 visitors enjoyed two symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven in June. The guests were greeted – according to a Romanian custom – in a welcome ceremony with bread and salt, and enjoyed the wonderful ambience of the Festspielhaus in Erl. We thank our partners: Tyrol Festival Erl, Bank for Tyrol and Vorarlberg, STRABAG and the Tiroler Tageszeitung, and are looking forward to a reunion in September 2018.

## CHILDREN'S MAGIC FROM ROMANIA

It does not always take professional musicians to inspire the audience musically. This was proven by a group of Romanian children who offered a varied program at the CONCORDIA children's concert under the motto "Play, laugh, learn." In addition to the vocal performances, the children also thrilled spectators with their drums, a pantomime performance on children's rights and a lively Romanian folk dance. Stories and field reports from the region underlined the great successes that we can achieve with our local projects. The audience was excited!



## ADVENT ATMOSPHERE AT THE PALAIS

At the end of the year we are always happy to invite people to the traditional CONCORDIA matinée. The musicians of the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna under the direction of conductor Rudolf Streicher again put themselves in the service of a good cause free of charge and enthused the audience at Palais Ferstel. Johann Plank impressed with a solo on his trumpet, Father Markus Inama, SJ read touching stories from his latest book *Der Hoffnung ein Zuhause geben* (Giving Hope a Home) – the final blessing came this year from Bishop Monsignor Christo Proykow from Sofia.



## LENZ: YOUTH IN ACTION

“Community action” is the motto under which young refugees and persons with a migration background from the LenZ (Learning and Family Center) in Vienna campaign for cultural diversity and come into contact with the Austrian population. As a place of encounter, the LenZ promotes dialogue and the coexistence of people of different cultural traditions and convictions – because integration also means exchange. In addition to the basic education courses and the Language Café, many volunteers work with migrant children every week to help them learn and facilitate their school attendance. At the school’s out party, around 100 people celebrated their cooperation together in 2017.



## THE CHOCOLATE SIDE OF ART

If the Original Sacher-Torte is already a special treat in itself, then it is no longer to be surpassed in originality in a wooden box specially designed by Heimo Zobernig. No wonder that the 2017 Sacher Artists’ Collection was sold out within a very short time. More than 30,000 Euros were raised with the limited-edition artwork and the net proceeds donated to the CONCORDIA Vocational School for Bakers. We are delighted with the generous support for this project, which helps young people in Romania in many respects. Besides training, the vocational school offers accommodation, comprehensive social and psychological assistance, and opens up new prospects for socially disadvantaged young people.



## GIVING HOPE A HOME

When he went to Sofia for four years in 2008 to set up the social center “Sveti Konstantin” on behalf of CONCORDIA, he was confronted with misery that made him question his convictions. Father Markus Inama, SJ summarized his experiences and impressions in a moving book published in 2017. In *Der Hoffnung ein Zuhause geben* (Giving Hope a Home), Markus Inama talks about everyday life in Sveti Konstantin, about tragic fates and about special moments of happiness. It is also a personal story of faith in which Father Inama grapples with spirituality as well as with the inner struggles that the encounters with the children and adolescents triggered within him.



## TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST

CONCORDIA Social Projects not only takes over responsibility for children, adolescents and families in distress, but also for entrusted donations. That is why CONCORDIA Social Projects—as well as the four sister associations in Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Germany—submit to statutory audits.

## AUDIT OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CONCORDIA Social Projects Non-Profit Private Foundation submits its annual financial statement to an audit by Burger & Partner/BDO Austria GmbH. The audit for the period of 2017 was positively completed in May 2018 and led to no objections whatsoever concerning proper accounting and financial reporting, as well as the statutorily appropriate usage of the funds.

## AUSTRIAN DONATION SEAL OF QUALITY

Since December 4, 2014, CONCORDIA Social Projects Non-Profit Private Foundation has been awarded the Austrian Donation Seal of Quality by the Chamber of Public Accountants and Tax Advisors.



## DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Donations to CONCORDIA Social Projects have been tax-deductible according to §4a Z3 and 4EStG since 2009 (registration no. SO 1295).



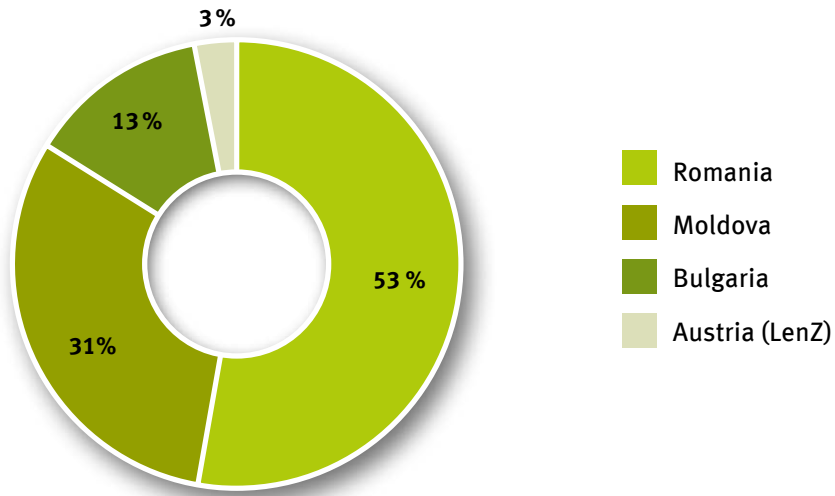
## CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS NON-PROFIT PRIVATE FOUNDATION

SOURCE OF FUNDS (PROCEEDS)	EUR	in %
<b>I. DONATIONS</b>		
a) Dedicated donations	952.576	16%
b) Non-dedicated donations	3.631.731	61%
<b>II. MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>	0	
<b>III. OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
a) Operating revenue from public funds	0	
b) Other operating revenue	0	
<b>IV. SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR</b>	0	
<b>V. OTHER REVENUE</b>		
a) Asset management	377.915	6%
b) Other additional revenue unless otherwise specified in Points I to IV	474.648	8%
<b>VI. RELEASE OF RESERVES FOR DONATIONS, RESP., GRANTS NOT YET USED AS DESIGNATED</b>	93.510	2%
<b>VII. RELEASE OF RESERVES</b>	410.476	7%
<b>VIII. ANNUAL LOSSES</b>	0	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>5.940.856</b>	<b>100%</b>

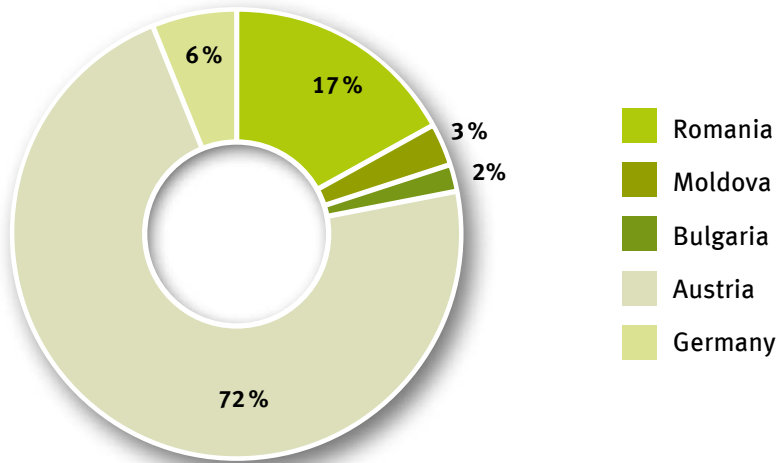
APPLICATION OF FUNDS (EXPENDITURES)		
<b>I. PAYMENTS FOR STATUTORILY DEFINED PURPOSES</b>	4.659.072	79%
<b>II. ADVERTISING FOR DONATIONS</b>	729.537	12%
<b>III. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND DONATION ADMINISTRATION</b>	248.268	4%
<b>IV. ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN POINTS I TO III</b>	303.980	5%
<b>V. ALLOCATION TO ASSETS FOR DONATIONS, RESP., GRANTS NOT YET USED AS DESIGNATED</b>	0	
<b>VI. ALLOCATION TO RESERVES</b>	0	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>5.940.856</b>	<b>100%</b>

# CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS INTERNATIONAL

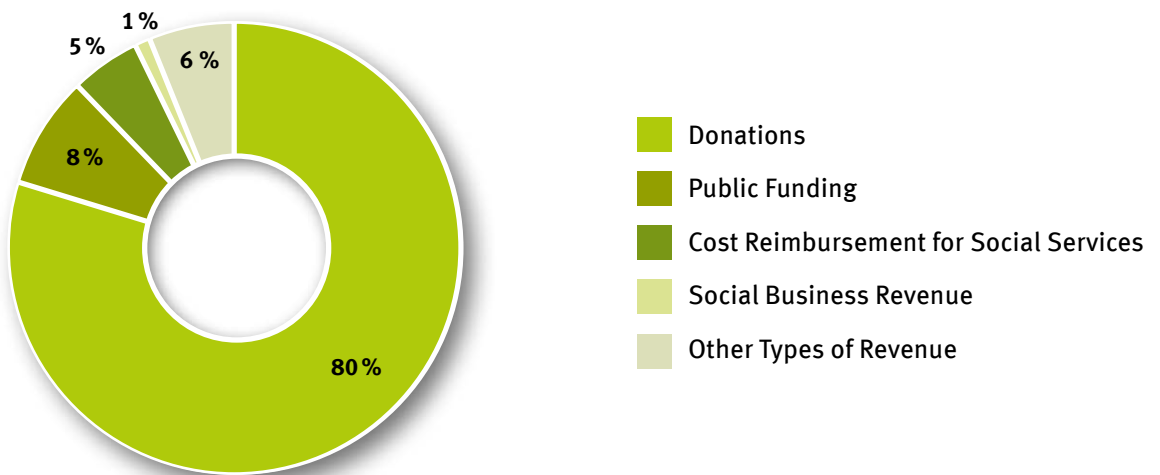
## APPLICATION OF FUNDS ACCORDING TO PROJECT COUNTRIES



## SOURCE OF FUNDS ACCORDING TO PROJECT COUNTRY



## TYPE OF FUND SOURCE



Valuable money donations ensure our activity. A variety of material and service donations support us in keeping our expenses low. **Many thanks for your important contribution!**

## WE THANK THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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## AND OUR PARTNERS



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Österreichische Liga für Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit  
SDG Watch Austria

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**Love is shown more in deeds than in words.**  
(Ignatius of Loyola)

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