



# Social Work International Conference (SWIC)

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

## "THE CHALLENGES OF GLOCAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH"

NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, BUCHAREST

### Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

#### 9.00-11.00 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

- *Dance Movement Psychotherapy in working with various populations, Dr. Jill Bunce, Derby University, UK (In English with translation to Romanian)*  
– Room Council Room (Ground floor)
- *International Student Exchange as a Valuable Approach for Social Work Education, Practice and Research: A Model of Collaboration between Babes Bolyai University and Springfield College, Dr. Karen Clark Hoey, Springfield College, Massachusetts and Dr. Cristina Baciu, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (In English)*  
– Room 105 (Ground floor)

#### 11.00-11.15 BREAK

#### 11.15-13.15 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS:

- *Community Based Participatory Research: A Research Approach Useful for Understanding the Global Challenges of Social Work, Dr. Elizabeth Lightfoot, University of Minnesota, USA (In English)*  
– Room Council Room (Ground floor)
- *Dance (therapy) to connect – the art of communication through movement, Dr. Flavia Dorelia Cardas, University of Bucharest, Romania (In Romanian)*  
– Room 105 (Ground floor)



**13.15-13.45 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**EXHIBITIONS** [open all conference long]

**Painting Exhibition - About Angels. About Love, Beauty, Kindness** by **Simona Budică**

**Photo Exhibition - A Century of Social Work in Romania & Bucharest**

**General Directorate for Social Work of Bucharest Municipality**

**Exhibition - Decorative Candles, Ateliere Protejate Association**

**13.45- 14.45 THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY** [plenum, amphitheatre]

**Prof. Marian Preda, Ph.D.**, *President of the Senate, University of Bucharest*

**Roxana Marin, Ph.D.**, *Head of Service, General Directorate for Social Work of Bucharest*

**Assoc. Prof. Darie Cristea, Ph.D.**, *Vice-Dean, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work,  
University of Bucharest*

**Assoc. Prof. Adrian Dan, Ph.D.**, *Head of Social Work Department, Faculty of Sociology and Social  
Work, University of Bucharest,  
President of the Organizing Committee of the SWIC 2018*

**ARTISTIC MOMENT**

**14.45-15.45 PUBLIC LECTURE** [plenum, amphitheatre 103]

**Nino Žganec**, *Professor of Social Work*

*Head of the Social Work Department at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb*

*President of the European Association of Schools of Social Work*

**“Social Work Practice and Education Under Pressure - Neoliberal Traps and Professional Solutions”**

**15.45-16.00 COFFEE BREAK**

**16.00-17.00 PUBLIC LECTURE** [plenum, amphitheatre 103]

**Lars Uggerhøj**, *Professor of Social Work*

*Aalborg University, Denmark*

*Visiting Professor at University of Lincoln, UK.*

**“Participatory Practice Research. A Joint Basis to Meet Challenges in Social Work Practice, Education and Research?”**



**17.00-17.15 COFFEE BREAK**

**17.15-19.00 PAPER PRESENTATIONS** [parallel sessions]

**SESSION 1**

**Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education, Practice and Research**

<b><u>17.15-19.00</u></b>	<i>Amphitheatre 103, ground floor</i>	Thursday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>
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Chair: **Anamaria Szabo**

- 1. Welfare state and work decommodification in East and West: an overtime comparison**  
*Mălina Voicu - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*  
*Adrian Dan - University of Bucharest, Romania*
- 2. Challenges to Social Work Education in Bulgaria and Bachelor Program's Curriculum Development**  
*Lydmila Vekova, Ognyan Koychev - University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarsky", Bulgaria*
- 3. Community caregivers in the field of HIV and Aids antiretroviral adherence: a suggested empowerment programme**  
*Herman Strydom, Roslind Mokwele - North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa*
- 4. Are there too many social assistance recipients in Romania?**  
*Daniel Arpinte - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*
- 5. Social Work is a global responsibility: active research in the making**  
*Jill Bunce - Derby University, United Kingdom*

**Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education, Practice and Research**

<b><u>17.15-19.00</u></b>	<i>Council Room, ground floor</i>	Thursday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>
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Chair: **Mădălina Manea**

- 1. Exploring the need for a Parent Centered Planning approach for parents with disabilities**  
*Elizabeth Lightfoot, Sharyn DeZelar - University of Minnesota, USA*
- 2. The profile of social workers employed in town halls and their perception about the social work profession. An exploratory study in Braşov County**  
*Codrina Csesznek, Marinela-Cristina Čimon - Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania*



3. **A commonality of norms: Recognising young people across an Ocean**  
*Catherine Phillips - Lakehead University, Canada*
4. **Social needs and problems in rural area from Brasov County. Causes and solutions from the perspective of social workers**  
*Diana-Cristina Bódi - Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania*
5. **Evidences from conducting biographical interviews. Main issues and answers from two different research projects**  
*Ana Maria Preoteasa - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*

**19.15-20.00 CONFERENCE DINNER**

## Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

**9.00-10.45 PAPER PRESENTATIONS** [parallel sessions]

### SESSION 2

<b>Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education and Research</b>		
<b><u>9.00-10.45</u></b>	<i>Amphitheatre103, ground floor</i>	Friday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>

Chair: *Mihai-Bogdan Iovu*

1. **Self-perceived employability: a representation of future professional careers in Social Work field**  
*Florina Demian - Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*
2. **The prerequisites of a competences-based social work education in Romania**  
*Emilia-Maria Sorescu - University of Craiova, Romania*
3. **Protecting our children in a dangerous, globalized world through innovative professional education and targeted education for young people**  
*Jane Reeves - University of Kent, United Kingdom*
4. **Active aging: family norms and opportunity structure. A comparative approach**  
*Mălina Voicu - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*  
*Sorin Cace - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*  
*Mădălina Manea - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy / University of Bucharest, Romania*



## 5. The Effects of a Personal Development Course on Social Work Students

**Sorina Daniela Dumitrache** - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

**Florin Lazăr** - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

### Glocal Challenges of Social Work Practice

**9.00-10.45**

*Council Room, ground floor*

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Chair: **Elizabeth Lightfoot**

#### 1. Exploring the Application of Restorative Justice Principles in Child Protection Work: The State of Vermont as Case Study

**Anamaria Szabo** - *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

#### 2. The implications of social constructionism in social work. Reconsidering the problems of vulnerable groups

**Alexandra Galbin** - *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania*

#### 3. The art of co-creation: working on deep and sustainable social change

**Jos Pauwels** - *Artesis Plantijn Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium*

#### 4. Global solutions to local problems: international NGOs' interventions in reducing disasters in rural Romania

**Anca Mihai** – *University of Bucharest, Romania*

#### 5. Professionals' attitudes to violence in residential care of children

**Maria Roth** - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**Éva László Bodrogi** - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**Imola Antal** - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**Dávid-Kacsó Ágnes** - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**Dora Călian** - *Lawyer*

**Anca Mureşan** - *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

### **10.45-11.00 COFFEE BREAK**

#### **11.00-12.00 PUBLIC LECTURE** [plenum, amphitheatre 103]

**Karen Lyons**, *Emeritus Professor at London Metropolitan University (UK)*

**“Transnational social work: connecting global and local issues”**

### **12.00-13.30 LUNCH BREAK**



**12.00-13.30 POSTER PRESENTATIONS – Main Hall**

**Activism and its manifestations on the social work profession in Romania: a challenge or an opportunity?**

**Ionuț Cioartă** - *University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom*

**Social intervention and the integration of remigrant child and young people**

**Luminița Iosif** - *Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania*

**13.30-15.30 PAPER PRESENTATIONS [parallel sessions]**

**SESSION 3**

**Glocal Challenges of Social Work Research and Practice**

**13.30-15.30**

*Amphitheatre 103, ground floor*

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Chair: **Herman Strydom**

- 1. Challenges in doing MA research on social work in Poland - perspectives of international students**  
**Agnieszka Naumiuk** - *University of Warsaw, Poland*
- 2. The Effect of Perceived Social Support on Internet Addiction in University Students: A Sample from Turkey**  
**Orhan Kocak, Merve Kaya, Yavuz Aslan, Osman Akay** - *Istanbul Univeristy Cerrahpasa, Turkey*
- 3. Is obesity a social problem in Romania? Implications on social assistance**  
**Cristina Siclovan**- *National Health Insurance House, Department of Curative Programs, Romania*
- 4. Alcoholics' motivation to become sober and maintain their sobriety within Alcoholics Anonymous support groups**  
**Adriana Lavinia Bulumac** - *University of Bucharest, Romania*
- 5. Are the Social Work journals different? Positioning Social Work into Romanian publishing landscape**  
**Bogdan Voicu** - *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania*  
**Adrian Dan** - *University of Bucharest, Romania*
- 6. Glocal challenges for the Romanian probation system**  
**Cătălin Ionete** - *University of Bucharest, Romania*



**Glocal Challenges of Social Work Education and Practice**

**13.30-15.30**

*Council Room, ground floor*

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Chair: **Emilia-Maria Sorescu**

**1. Social Work Education in Bulgaria**

**Vesela Ivanova, Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova** - *South-West University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad*

**2. Life after graduation: What do I do with a social work degree?**

**Mihai-Bogdan Iovu, Forina Demian** – *Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**3. Development of Veterinary Social Work field in Romania: Education and Community-Oriented Programs**

**Alina Simona Rusu** - *Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**4. Innovative aspects in the initial and continuous training of professional foster parents in Romania**

**Marinela - Carmen Grigore** – *Universitatea Ovidius din Constanta, Romania*

**5. Counselling Families with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Sandica Ion** - *University of Bucharest, Romania*

**15.30-15.45 COFFEE BREAK**

**15.45-17.45 PAPER PRESENTATIONS** [parallel sessions]

**SESSION 4**

**Glocal Challenges of Social Work Practice**

**15.45-17.45**

*Amphitheatre 103, ground floor*

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Chair: **Bogdan Voicu**

**1. Interactions in an extreme poverty context: an analysis of low- threshold services in a local context of Southern Italy**

**Maddalena Floriana Grassi** - *University of Bari, Italy*

**2. Building resilience of poor children from rural areas - Risk factors related with child's poverty and long-term effects on children's development**

**Darie Beatrice** – *Al. I. Cuza University, Iaşi, Romania.*





**3. The Philippine's War on Drugs: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Surviving Family members towards Recovery**

**Jowima Ang-Reyes** - *University of the Philippines, Diliman*

**4. Verbal and emotional bullying, effects and recommendations for minimizing the phenomenon**

**Sevastin Ruxandra, Olariu Florina, Rosu Mihaela** – *University of Bucharest, Romania*

**Glocal Challenges of Social Work Practice**

**15.45-17.45**

*Council Room, ground floor*

Thursday, November 9th

Chair: **Mălina Voicu**

**1. Specialized intervention to protect victims of family violence**

**Rodica Gabriela Enache, Raluca Matei, Roxana Onea** - *Ovidius University Constanța, Romania*

**2. Counseling - an integral part of the social assistance practice**

**Gabriela Povian, Patricia Runcan** - *West University Timișoara, Romania*

**3. Creating positive habits in kids**

**Mihai Florin Anca** - *Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**4. Inter-professional collaborations between social workers and international development professionals: Perceptions from practice**

**Daniela Gaba** – *University of Bucharest, Romania*

**17.45-18.00 CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION** [plenum, amphitheatre]



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### *Nino Žganec*



**Nino Žganec**, Ph.D. is from Croatia where he finished his Social Work studies and obtained his PhD. Since 1991 he has worked at the Faculty of Social Work and currently he is Full Professor and Head of the Social Work Department at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. His writings, research interests and practice are in community social work, human rights and organization of social services. He introduced several new social work subjects in the curriculum of the social work study as e.g. ethics in social work, social work and human rights and other. Since 2015 he is the president of the European Association of Schools of Social Work and vice president of the International Association of Schools of Social

Work. He was assistant minister and state secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the government of Republic of Croatia since 2000-2005. During his term in the office he initiated and led the reform of the Croatian social welfare system. He is the president of the Croatian Anti-Poverty Network and member of the Executive Committee of the European Anti-Poverty Network.

### *Lars Uggerhøj*



**Lars Uggerhøj**, PhD is a Full Professor of Social Work at Aalborg University, Denmark. He is an educated and experienced social worker and holds a PhD in social work. His research focuses on the experiences from and involvement of service users as well as power relations and actor perspectives in social work. His research approach is practice research and he has since 2008 published several articles and book chapters about this issue – as well as trying out different practice research approaches. He has published widely nationally and internationally. He has headed the Danish MSc in Social Science in Social Work for nine years. He has for 6 years been the Danish coordinator of the international Erasmus Mundus Programme ‘Master in Advanced Development in Social Work’ and will coordinate the whole programme from 2019. He is the Danish coordinator of the ‘Nordic master in Social Work and welfare’- another international master programme in social work. He coordinates the ‘Practice Research and Service User Perspectives’ research network, the Nordic ‘Knowledge production in Social Work’ research

network, the ‘Nordic/Baltic Doctoral Network in Social Work’ and is convenor of ‘The Special Interest Group in Practice Research’ in the European Social Work Research Association. He has been visiting professor at Boston University, USA, full visiting professor at Helsinki University, Finland and currently at University of Lincoln, UK.

### *Karen Lyons*



**Karen Lyons** (PhD, CQSW) is an Emeritus Professor at London Metropolitan University (UK). Following experience in the field, she was a social work educator at University of East London where she developed award bearing courses in international social work. Her doctoral research (British social work education), together with experience in a European network, on the board of IASSW, and as the Editor of *International Social Work*, resulted in contributions to the development of social work education in a variety of countries in Europe and beyond. She continues to supervise and examine doctoral students and undertakes some writing and editing projects. Her most recent writing, on

international labour mobility and transnational social work, echoes and extends earlier research activity in relation to the UK professional workforce.



## WORKHOPS

### Workshop 1: Dance Movement Psychotherapy in working with various populations

*Workshop Coordinator:* Jill Bunce, Derby University, UK

*Language:* **English with Romanian translation**

*Date and Time:* Thursday, November 8th, 9:00-11:00

#### Workshop description

The social model of Dance Movement Psychotherapy enables interventions within a community context and activates changes in social and behavioural patterns. It enables, through movement, ritual and attachment behaviour, changes in perception, relationships and maladaptive social patterns.

#### About the trainer

**Jill Bunce**, PhD has used dance as a community art form for many years, having graduated as a teacher and then attending the Laban Studio. She developed her career to establish an Undergraduate Programme at Derby University in 2000 which is now thriving. She trained as a Dance Movement Psychotherapist in 1991-1995 at the Laban Centre and completed a piece of research which was published in the 'Nameless Dread', 2006. In this book she completed a chapter on her work with Parkinson's Disease.

She has worked as a Dance Movement Psychotherapist with many different vulnerable people and has worked with people with autism, learning disability, dementia, conduct disorder, addiction and older people and children from ages 3-15. She gained her doctorate in 2008 on the development of a different ethos for Dance Education.

She has established a training course for Dance Movement Psychotherapy at Derby University in 2010 and is now training postgraduates as Dance Movement Psychotherapists and has established a creative, dynamic and experiential course.

She has organised workshops and lectured in Finland, Russia, Greece, Romania, Spain and nationally for the Parkinson's Disease Society, Specialist Nurses and for Schools and Colleges.

She completed, in 2012, a community research project with Staffs University and a dance consortium Dance 123 BID. This was an investigation into the responses to an Eating disorder and a creative response through performance and workshops with adolescents. This work has been published and has created a wide interest.



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## **Workshop 2: International Student Exchange as a Valuable Approach for Social Work Education, Practice and Research: A Model of Collaboration between Babes Bolyai University and Springfield College**

### *Workshop Coordinators:*

Karen Clark Hoey, Springfield College, Massachusetts  
Cristina Baci, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Language:* **English**

*Date and Time:* Thursday, November 8th, 9:00-11:00

### **Workshop description**

The proposed workshop is geared towards students and faculty of Social Work as well as NGO and human service workers and will illustrate the graduate student exchange program between Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj and Springfield College in Massachusetts. The presenters will describe and discuss the model of their collaboration and how and why it was determined that this student exchange program would be primarily centered on child welfare, the most popular area of interest for Springfield College Graduate Students of Social Work. With marked increases in the number children removed from their parents in Massachusetts and the increasing rate of parental rights termination in this state, the experience these students had in Romania has led to insight into alternatives interventions and child-centered care in their own child welfare work.

The workshop will compare/contrast social work education in the child welfare field between our two countries and draw upon student fieldwork experience to achieve the following cross cultural learning objectives:

- Ideas for a more effective practice structure for students from both countries practicing in the area of child welfare (e.g. weekly practice vs. block practice or combined: advantages and disadvantages; number of hours etc.) cross cultural comparisons
- The role of the student in a child welfare setting – # cases and whether caseloads should be child centered, parent centered or both? cross cultural comparisons
- Understanding child welfare practice principles in a government vs. non-governmental agency setting – cross cultural comparisons
- Supervision: individual or group? cross cultural comparisons
- How to work with the collateral organizations encountered by students practicing in the area of child welfare (health care, education, etc.) cross cultural comparisons.
- Practicing self-care in high-stress areas of social work practice – cross cultural comparisons
- What was learned from this child welfare-centered educational exchange that will inform ongoing exchanges between our two schools of social work?
- Vision going forward for exchanges, incorporating what was learned into practice, managing student expectations, design of collaborative protocols for organizing child welfare practice exchange and potential for universal applicability.



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## About the trainers

**Karen Clark Hoey**, PhD, MSW is an Assistant Professor at Springfield College, Massachusetts and a Clinical Social Worker at the MetroWest Medical Center, Emergency Room Psychiatric Services, Natick, Massachusetts. She holds a PhD in Social Policy and Program Administration from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. She has worked as a Consultant and Interim Director at the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, Worcester, MA and has been a Fulbright Scholar Program at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Department of Sociology and Social Work in Iasi, Romania.

**Cristina Baci**, PhD is Associate Professor at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She holds a PhD in Psychology from Babeş-Bolyai University. She has been involved in numerous national and international social projects for the protection of vulnerable groups. Her research interests are in the areas of child protection, unemployment, stress and community development.

## Workshop 3: Community Based Participatory Research: A Research Approach Useful for Understanding the Global Challenges of Social Work

*Workshop Coordinator:* Elizabeth Lightfoot, University of Minnesota, USA.

*Language:* **English**

*Date and Time:* Thursday, November 8th, 11:15- 13:15

### Workshop description

This workshop will introduce Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) as an approach to social work research that is gaining more prominence internationally. CBPR is a research approach which involves long-term engagement and power-sharing with community members and organizations. Social work, with its ecological and empowerment approach, has a natural affinity with the CBPR approach to research. In CBPR, researchers and community members work together in collaborative, non-hierarchical ways, where each partner's expertise is recognized and valued, with the goal of producing knowledge that may be directly applied to community issues. Ideally, in CBPR community members and researchers co-identify important community issues that need further exploration; co-create partnerships that identify the most appropriate methods to explore the issue; co-collect the information in ways that can engage the community in the data collection process; and then co-analyze the data in order to find the deep meanings and context of the community's lived experiences. Exploring social welfare issues in this manner can result in more valid and reliable information that is more relevant to people's lives, and thus can result in the development of more sustainable programs, interventions or solutions to social problems.

Using an in depth case example, this workshop will introduce attendees to the key principles of CBPR, compare CBPR to other types of social science research, and present an overview of typical research methods employed when using a CBPR approach to research. While there are challenges in using a CBPR, it is a positive, realistic approach to understanding issues of importance to the community, and provides a starting point for taking action in a way which builds trust between professionals and local



communities. For social work researchers interested in appropriately addressing societal issues, CBPR is a natural fit.

#### About the trainer

**Elizabeth Lightfoot**, PhD is a Professor at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work. She has been on faculty at the University of Minnesota since 1999 and has been the doctoral program director there since 2006. Her main research interests are in the area of disability policy and services, and the intersections of disability with child welfare, aging, violence prevention and health. She currently has several research projects underway exploring parental supports for parents with disabilities, and also is working on several projects regarding doctoral education in social work. The MSW courses she teaches regularly include social work with people with disabilities and community practice. She regularly teaches doctoral seminars in social policy and research, has supervised 21 doctoral dissertations, and has been on the committees of many other doctoral students. She is the past-president of the President of the Group for the Advanced for Doctoral Education (GADE). She is spending the 2018-2019 academic year on sabbatical as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Bucharest in Romania, and previously was a Fulbright scholar in Namibia in 2008.

### **Workshop 4: Dance (therapy) to connect – the art of communication through movement**

*Workshop Coordinator:* Flavia Dorelia Cardaş, University of Bucharest

*Language:* **Romanian/English**

*Date and Time:* Thursday, November 8th, 11:15- 13:15

#### **Workshop description**

Dance is as natural as verbal communication. It is the mean through which we express ourselves beyond the speech. Sometimes, what we feel and think cannot be put in words therefore movement can help us know ourselves and the others better. Dance/movement therapy is a psychotherapeutic approach that uses dance and movement to improve physical, emotional, cognitive and social abilities, creating the safe space for self-knowledge and interaction. This workshop brings you the opportunity to discover new ways of communication in order to become a better version of yourselves.

#### About the trainer

**Flavia Dorelia Cardaş**, PhD is Associate Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Bucharest, School Counsellor at CMBRAE Bucharest and Psychologist at Policy Center for Roma and Minorities Foundation. She holds a PhD in Psychology and is a graduate of the Psychodiagnosis, Unifying Experiential Psychotherapy and Personal Development Master Programme and of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Bucharest. She is passionate about dance and education and has participated at various national and international conferences, workshops and training programs regarding personal development and dance/movement psychotherapy (U.K. – Edge Hill University, University of Derby, Portugal – Universidade da Beira Interior, Italy – Milano, France – Paris). Her first love being Music, she graduated from the "Carmen Sylva" Arts College, after eight years of playing the oboe, but dance remains her favourite self-knowledge, inter-relating and relaxation tool.





## ***EXHIBITIONS***

### **Painting Exhibition - About Angels. About Love, Beauty, Kindness** **Simona Budică**

Simona Budică is a Social Work graduate from the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work of the University of Bucharest. She is currently studying in the Social Services Management Master programme at the same university and is a volunteer at the Touched Romania Foundation, active in the Fundeni Clinical Institute in Bucharest.

Simona started painting for the first time a year and a half ago. Her inspiration for painting angels came from the acknowledgement of the need to see not only the hardship, but also the beauty all around. In Simona's view, Angels are symbols of Beauty, Love, Kindness and Peace. Their mission is to bring humans a touch of happiness and to make them understand that they are not alone. In many cultures around the world, angels are seen as messengers of divine presence and they are called upon in a variety of settings to bring comfort to people who are in need (e.g. healing, therapeutic, grieving processes). Simona's painting exhibition strives to embody the energy that makes people feel loved unconditionally, believe that they can be successful and that everything happens for a higher purpose.

### **Exhibition – Decorative Candles**

#### **Ateliere Protejate Association**

The purpose of the Ateliere Protejate Association is to help adult people with disabilities become as independent as possible in daily life through practical, educative, socializing activities to integrate in the community.

In February 2002 the Ateliere Protejate Association was officially set up with the support of the Boxberg village from Germany and we bought a house. Helped by volunteers from Romania and Germany who worked at the renovation that year, seven young people started making candles at the workshop. Since then, over 120 young people benefited of our project and some of them managed to get a job and still keep it. Now are benefiting the project 22 persons from Foster Care and from families, with ages between 23 and 41 years old. We are trying to respond in the best way to their necessities.

Our main strength is to offer a meaningful job for disabled people and we do this for more than ten years with an atmosphere of mutual respect, responsibility, joy and cooperation.

Occupational therapy has an important role for their personalities and integration in community. For achieving this purpose, our intervention programs involve work activities, educational activities, daily life skills (personal hygiene, self-care, self-serve, household skills, supply, preparation and catering the meal) socialization.



Here people with disabilities have the opportunity to make candles, from simple designs to decorative candles with ornaments and we support them in all this process of learning practical skills. Selling those candles is very important for youngsters because their work becomes valuable in society, they have a value, they feel useful and that boost their self-esteem.

Since 2010 we started a collaboration with two companies Retro House and KernLiebers and they give us something to work. Working for Retro House, beneficiaries learn to do the difference between color, size, shape, pattern and put things in precise quantities then package in bags then stick them together. This is a repetitive activity that requires constant attention, patience, perseverance and new challenges.

We are interested in the personal development of our clients and our aim is to help them manage different situations in their best way and to develop their potential (self-esteem, for manual skills, interaction with others). We also do educational activities and teach them to read the clock, differentiate colors, counting money, speech therapy, good manners, notions of general knowledge based on individual interest.

We also involve families and supporters in this long process of independence. We counsel them to continue daily occupational therapy and to focus on realistic, measurable objectives on short and long term.

## **Photo Exhibition - A Century of Social Work in Romania & Bucharest**

### **General Directorate for Social Work of Bucharest Municipality**

This year, Romania celebrates a century of fulfilment from bringing together in a single State of the Romanian old Pricipates: Basarabia, Bucovina, Transilvania, Banat, Crişana and Maramureş. The centenary of the Great Union is representing an occasion to commemorate the beginnings of social assistance in Romania and also to take stock of the achievements within these years and, especially, to reflect upon the development of social services and social protection measures addressed to individuals and families.

In support of this event, we are holding a picture gallery of the development of social services and social assistance measures organized by the Municipality of Bucharest over the past 100 years.

The photo exhibition, organized by the General Directorate of Social Work of the Municipality of Bucharest, is available to participants and visitors, during the conference, in the lobby, at the main entrance of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work.