



**2nd Annual Conference of the Cities for Children Network  
May 6 and 7, 2008 in Stuttgart City Hall**

**Meeting of the Working Group 5 „Active Living Together of Old and Young“  
on May 7, 2008**

---

**Moderation:** Adina Patroc, City of Oradea

**Assistant:** Dia Gheorghita, City of Oradea

1. Presentation of working and social issues in the city of Oradea in Romania.

Topics:

- older people
- disabled
- children and young people at risk
- homeless
- Roma ethnics

2. Introduction of all participants

3. Discussion and preparation of the next meeting on:

- Are there any tensions between young and older people in your community?
- What is the role of organizations and institutions such as: local authorities, health service, schools, youth organizations, religious groups, voluntary organizations, private sector bodies, art centers, media, in building strong relations between generations?
- What are the legal (in respect of the relationship between young and older people), financial and human resources available in your city?
- What activities help bring old and young together, build friendships and get a better understanding of each other?
- What is the input of the individuals and the community in building these relations?
- What are the benefits to the individual and to your community?

**1. Presentation:**

In Oradea, there are some institutions and networks to support the improvement of living conditions in social issues. So there is a Day Care Centre, two social hostels for poor, older and homeless people, seniors clubs, nursing home, the Oradea Community Volunteer Centre etc.

Important to Mrs. Patroc is not to see health, education and social issues as separate questions, but to combine them in a network like the ACCESS-OR Network in Oradea.

## **2. Discussion**

Mrs. Patroc informed the participants on each topic about the situation in Oradea and then invited the participants to present the situation in their cities. Main conclusions:

Top 1:

Without incentives and support, there will be no socialisation between young and old people. Missing or low respect of young persons for seniors and vice versa constitutes a serious challenge.

Top 2:

Many youngsters do not grow up within a traditional complete family and it is rare that they engage in voluntary work with older persons. However, young persons might be interested in getting involved in projects with the elderly, but they need some benefit. Therefore it seems important to support projects, in which old and young can live together to realize a family life which does not take place in the traditional frame any longer. Further, young persons are to be encouraged to take part in voluntary activities with senior citizens.

Top 3:

How to help people in other parts of a country? What is the role of non-governmental organizations?

Top 4:

In Romania, Hungary or Poland, there are often little financial resources. Also, the political priorities are not often in social issues like the relationship between young and old. Therefore, it is difficult to achieve innovation in social issues.

## **3. WG meeting in Oradea**

The next meeting takes place in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October 2008. All members of this working group are invited to the city of Oradea.

The following themes will be discussed:

1. Ways to increase the dialog and the interaction between generations
2. How to create a network among local organizations involved in this field
3. The role of politicians

Protocol by Kerstin Hopp, Robert Bosch Foundation