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**NGOs PARTICIPATING IN THE 'UK AND ROMANIA WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THOSE IN NEED' SEMINAR**

***Absolute Return for Kids*** ([www.arkonline.org](http://www.arkonline.org)) Founded in 2002 by a group of leaders in the alternative investment industry, pooling their skills and resources to improve the life chances of children, ARK delivers high social returns on philanthropic investment. Employing over 1,200 staff directly and through partners, ARK's programmes are highly focused on meeting pre-defined strategic goals in the areas of HIV/AIDS (South Africa, Mozambique), Education (UK, India) and Children in Care (Eastern Europe).

***Adept Foundation*** ([www.fundatia-adept.org](http://www.fundatia-adept.org)) ADEPT Foundation operates in an area of 100,000 ha, helping the population of 25,000 obtain economic and social benefits from conservation. HRH The Prince of Wales takes a close interest in this project. ADEPT Foundation has funded joint research by Romanian and other European universities, published books, funded schools classes, obtained agri-environment grants for farmers, assisted the Romanian government in the design of its rural development programme. ADEPT is supported by Orange Romania, by the Romanian Government's Environment Fund, the British Government's Darwin Initiative and Environment for Europe funds.

***Autism Accreditation*** ([www.autism.org.uk/accreditation](http://www.autism.org.uk/accreditation)) is an arm's length dept of the National Autistic Society. We review and accredit services, schools and care provision for people with an ASD and have over 360 members and several international groups. Our standards have been developed over the last 15 years by experts in the field and cover a very wide range of provision from Day Schools to Fostering agency and from Adult Residential Care to Community Outreach.

***British Romanian Chamber of Commerce*** ([www.brcconline.eu](http://www.brcconline.eu)) has a newly developed concept of Associate Membership of the Chamber which highlights BRCC's role in the community and the expected role towards facilitating the inter relationship of Associate members to achieve common goals and co-operate in relation to solving commons issues and challenges. BRCC will take the lead on where: each charity offers a training element in its activity; PR & Communication strategy and campaign in a joint capacity; setting benchmarking standards of conduct, quality assurance, best practice; publicise the 2% campaign, ascertain process and procedure for obtaining EU funds for the NGO sector etc.

***Children in Distress*** ([www.childrenindistress.org](http://www.childrenindistress.org)) is a small UK registered charity operating in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Originally inspired by the plight of infants and children with AIDS abandoned in Romania's rundown hospitals and institutions in the aftermath of the Revolution; today, working in partnership with local and national government, international agencies ad other NGO's Children in Distress care for 2600 infants and children touched by HIV/AIDS, with the severest disabilities arising from birth defects or genetic disorders or who are terminally, chronically or incurably ill. Through its education, training and social outreach programmes, the charity supports a further 6000 impoverished children and their families. The charity lives by its mission: to cure sometimes, to help often, to comfort always.

***Children's High Level Group*** ([www.chlg.org](http://www.chlg.org)) was funded in the UK in December 2005 and in Romania in January 2006 by Baroness Emma Nicholson MEP and the children's author JK Rowling. The aims of the CHLG are to work with Governments and the NGO sector to improve outcomes for children in the fields of health, education and welfare. The CHLG is working in Romania on 4 major projects: The National Strategy for Community Action (links together High Schools and Special Schools and Placement Centres, Hospitals, Social Apartments and Centres



## British Embassy Bucharest

through a regular, weekly programme of visits and activities), The Toll Free Line (telephone and other counselling and information provision for children and families in Romania concerning adoption, child abuse, day care, discrimination, legal assistance, foster care advice etc.), The “Speak Up” Council of Children (youth organisation supported by the CHLG which aims to promote children’s rights, to offer examples of good practice and to strengthen the voice of children in Romania) and Edelweiss Competition (annually competition run to support and encourage the skills, talents and abilities of children in Placement Centres throughout Romania). As a result of a International Conference co-organised in Romania by the CHLG other countries in Europe have developed National Strategies of Pilot Studies in Community Action (eg. Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Macedonia and UK) – all based on Romania’s successful model.

***Cry in the Dark*** ([www.cryinthedark.org](http://www.cryinthedark.org)) was founded in 1998 and helps children and young people marginalised by poverty, sickness or disability in these ways: residential care for children and young adults with special needs, training of local community nurses in palliative care, community-based hospice and palliative care services, education about health and HIV/Aids delivered for and in the community by CIRD’s trained local community nurses in schools, community centres and workplaces, advocacy for unrepresented children and their families to ensure they have a voice and receive the appropriate medical/social care and support that they are entitled to, provision of services to other organisations working with vulnerable children and young people, such as project management, support, material and financial resources, partnering with other organisations working with vulnerable children and young people.

***F.R.O.D.O.*** ([www.frodokids.org](http://www.frodokids.org)) is a UK registered charity with the mission to transform the quality of life, provide hope and empower children with disabilities or life-threatening illness with a focus on orphaned or abandoned children but also helps other vulnerable children. It was founded in June 2006 and works in Romania and Albania. The foundation works in partnership with other NGOs, authorities and organisations to identify orphaned, abandoned or vulnerable children in need of medical treatment. 400 children were helped since the founding of the organisation.

***Fara*** ([www.faracharity.org](http://www.faracharity.org)) was founded in 1991 to alleviate the suffering of children in Romania’s state orphanages by providing a secure home, a loving family, education and training whilst giving Christian values and hope for the future. The number of children and young people being supported by FARA has grown rapidly and changed since the beginning – there are currently nine programmes meeting the needs of over 250 children: children living in extreme poverty, children with no access to education, children with disabilities.

***Help the Hospices*** ([www.helpthehospices.org.uk](http://www.helpthehospices.org.uk)) is the leading national charity supporting hospice care throughout the UK. Through our work in Romania, we aim to support organisations to improve care for people living with life limiting illnesses from the point of diagnosis of an illness to the end of life. For a number of years we have worked with our partners in Romania to support the development of hospices and palliative care. We have done this through the provision of grants for education and training and small projects. Our grants have included funding for the setting up a national hospice/palliative care regional training centre.

***Hospices of Hope*** ([www.hospicesofhope.co.uk](http://www.hospicesofhope.co.uk)) is the leading palliative care charity in South Eastern Europe. We think everyone deserves the best possible care at the end of life. Many patients still die in pain, without being offered any physical, psychological or emotional comfort. We are dedicated to improving the life of the terminally ill in Romania and surrounding countries by increasing access to hospice care and training. Our Aim is to achieve policy changes in Romania that will lead to hospice/palliative care becoming available to a majority of the population within four years.



British Embassy  
Bucharest

**Light into Europe** ([www.lightintoeurope.org](http://www.lightintoeurope.org)) Light into Europe's objective is to help the Romanian sensory disadvantaged children and young people to improve their lives, to expand their possibilities and to become active and accepted members of the Romanian society. Light into Europe is committed to implementing projects, providing services, and directly reaching beneficiaries to help overcome the many challenges faced by sensory impaired individuals in Romania today.

**Medical Support in Romania** ([www.msrb.org.uk](http://www.msrb.org.uk)) exists for the relief of sickness in Eastern and Central Europe, especially Romania, through the promotion of high standards of health care and good clinical practice. MSR focuses locally where aid is concerned, but nationally with regard to training. Between 1990 and 2008, 215 medical and specialist personnel, mostly from the UK, have made 353 visits to Romania, mostly to the Zalau Emergency Hospital, which is twinned with Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Cambridgeshire. During the same period there have been 94 training visits by Romanian medical and other staff to the UK.

**Motivation UK** ([www.motivation.org.uk](http://www.motivation.org.uk)) provides a wide range of services in Romania, in order to support the social, educational and occupational integration of persons with disabilities, health recovery services and accessibility. The Motivation services include: training stage for an independent life; production and distribution of personalised wheelchairs; integration on the labour market; social units – authorised protected shelters; adapted sports for wheelchair users; medical recovery; residential care and education services for children and youth with severe disabilities coming from placement centres; advocacy.

**Muzika Charitable Trust** ([www.muzika.org.uk](http://www.muzika.org.uk)) was established as a Charity in 1990, by a group of professionals from the arts, education and social services. Today **Muzika** has about 40 volunteers and has organised around 100 visits to Romania in the last 19 years. Since 1990 we have worked with street children, children in residential and day centres, adults in long stay hospitals and institutions. We provide training for carers in all the above settings, and work closely with Romanian NGOs. Muzika's current priority is to help Romanian institutions and NGOs work towards sustainable change in the way that they care for children and adults by increasing competence levels amongst staff, developing the use of arts-based approaches, strengthening effective management and introducing robust systems of governance.

**School Aid Romania** ([www.schoolaidromania.com](http://www.schoolaidromania.com)) was set up in 1990 with two main aims: to bring together 13 year old pupils (lower 6<sup>th</sup> form) from different schools and different communities in Northern Ireland and to assist children in need in Romania. The organisation's logo has 4 shamrocks – a red, a yellow and a blue one representing the National Flag of Romania and the fourth, a green one, representing Northern Ireland. School Aid Romania also works with the homeless, with poor families in a number of small villages and with a Roma project that is attempting to improve the education and lifestyle of Roma families. The students undertake a number of fundraising events in the months leading up to their departure for Romania.

**Shaw Trust** ([www.shaw-trust.org.uk](http://www.shaw-trust.org.uk)) Shaw Trust is a national charity which supports disabled and disadvantaged people to prepare for work, find jobs and live more independently. We believe everyone has the right to work and we have campaigned for over 25 years to turn our vision into a reality. Every year we work with over 60,000 clients who face barriers due to disability, ill health or social circumstance. Thousands of employers and public sector organisations also benefit from our range of services for business. We are the UK's largest third sector provider and one of the Government's lead partners in the delivery of employment programmes for disabled and disadvantaged people.



British Embassy  
Bucharest

**The Mihai Eminescu Trust** ([www.mihaieminescutrust.org](http://www.mihaieminescutrust.org)) concentrates on the Saxon villages of Transylvania, a special case because of the age and richness of their society and the emergency caused by the mass emigration of the Saxon inhabitants to Germany in 1990. The Trust also works on a smaller scale in another colourful and threatened part of Romania – the Maramures, where the buildings are made of wood and decorated with elaborate carvings. The Trust started work in 1999 in five villages 50 miles north of Brasov. In 2000 it selected a second cluster 50 miles further north. To date, we have enabled over 500 houses, barns, walls, bridges or churches to be renovated.

**The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment** ([www.princes-foundation.org](http://www.princes-foundation.org)) is an educational charity, which exists to improve the quality of people's lives by teaching and practising timeless and ecological ways of planning, designing and building. We believe that if we can understand and apply time-tested principles, building once more in a sustainable way, we will reap improvements in public health, in livelier and safer streets and in a more affordable lifestyle for families and individuals. We also believe that neighbourhoods exhibiting these sustainable characteristics will accrue higher value over time.

**The Ratiu Foundation UK** ([www.ratiufamilyfoundation.com](http://www.ratiufamilyfoundation.com)) was established in London in 1979 by Ion and Elisabeth Ratiu to promote and support projects which further education and research in the culture and history of Romania. This year, the foundation celebrates 30 years of the fight for independent thought and cultural excellence. The Foundation offers 100 annual grants worth GBP 200,000, principally for projects, postgraduate courses, conference participation, travel grants and other short-term courses including academic research.

**World Society for the Protection of Animals** ([www.wspa.org.uk](http://www.wspa.org.uk)) has been promoting animal welfare for more than 25 years. Our work is concentrated in regions of the world where few, if any, measures exist to protect animals. Our mission: to build a united global animal welfare movement. With consultative status at the United Nations and the Council of Europe, WSPA is the world's largest alliance of animal welfare societies. WSPA is working together with Milioane de Prieteni, a member society in Romania, to enable Romania's existing animal welfare legislation – which requires a decent environment for captive bears – to be enforced by providing the nation's first sanctuary.