

**„Balance - Support for the families of children with disabilities from Iași”**

*The Iasi municipality, through a grant of 317.560 euros opened a center for 25 children, out of which 5 of Roma ethnicity. The center is specifically designed to serve the needs of children with disabilities, aged 0 to 7 years old. The activities offered by the centre to the beneficiaries are day care, as well as specialised therapeutic services (physiotherapy, speech therapy, rehabilitation by sensorial stimulation).*

*The center designed non-formal education activities that consist in activities for the adaptation of children to the day-care centre, cognitive stimulation activities, socialisation activities (such as correct table behaviour, in groups with other children or with adults), activities to develop personal autonomy, recreational activities. The activities are carried out by educators in individual and group educational programmes: speech therapy, counselling and psychological therapy, physiotherapy, control of the health data and health education for children and temporary aid.*

*In the "Balance" day-care centre, meetings with the direct beneficiaries of the project, namely the families of the children, are scheduled quarterly. These meetings contain courses of parental education, in the centre also being set up an information point for the parents; parents can find out information on the progress of the children and info and materials promoting equal chances.*

*During the implementation period, the promoter carried out numerous information and project promotion events, public opinion awareness to the importance of equal chances, with the attendance of women from the Roma community, on various themes. Two residential seminars and a workshop – best practices exchange to promote equal chances were organised. At these events there were identified general existing issues at local level on discrimination and equal chances, and there were proposed five specific actions to employ at local level. A methodology at local level was agreed on by all network members for an efficient communication and cooperation rules, with the existent resources or resources from the network or the community.*

*Through the project implementation, a building in the patrimony of Iași County Council, previously in an advanced degradation status, was rehabilitated; at the same time, through the project, endowment for the centre was purchased, consisting of: modern and ergonomic furniture, medical equipment for physiotherapy activities, bedding, IT equipment, household appliances, and others.*

*Through the project, Iasi County Council set up a new service contributing to the improvement of life quality of the families, that are temporarily released from the responsibilities of caring for children with disabilities, as well as of children, beneficiaries of the day care centre services.*

*For this promoter, changes to the budget compared to initial planning were required (when the budget was initially drafted, some expenditure was omitted. The renovation / refurbishing of the space was delayed due to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary permits to start the works.*