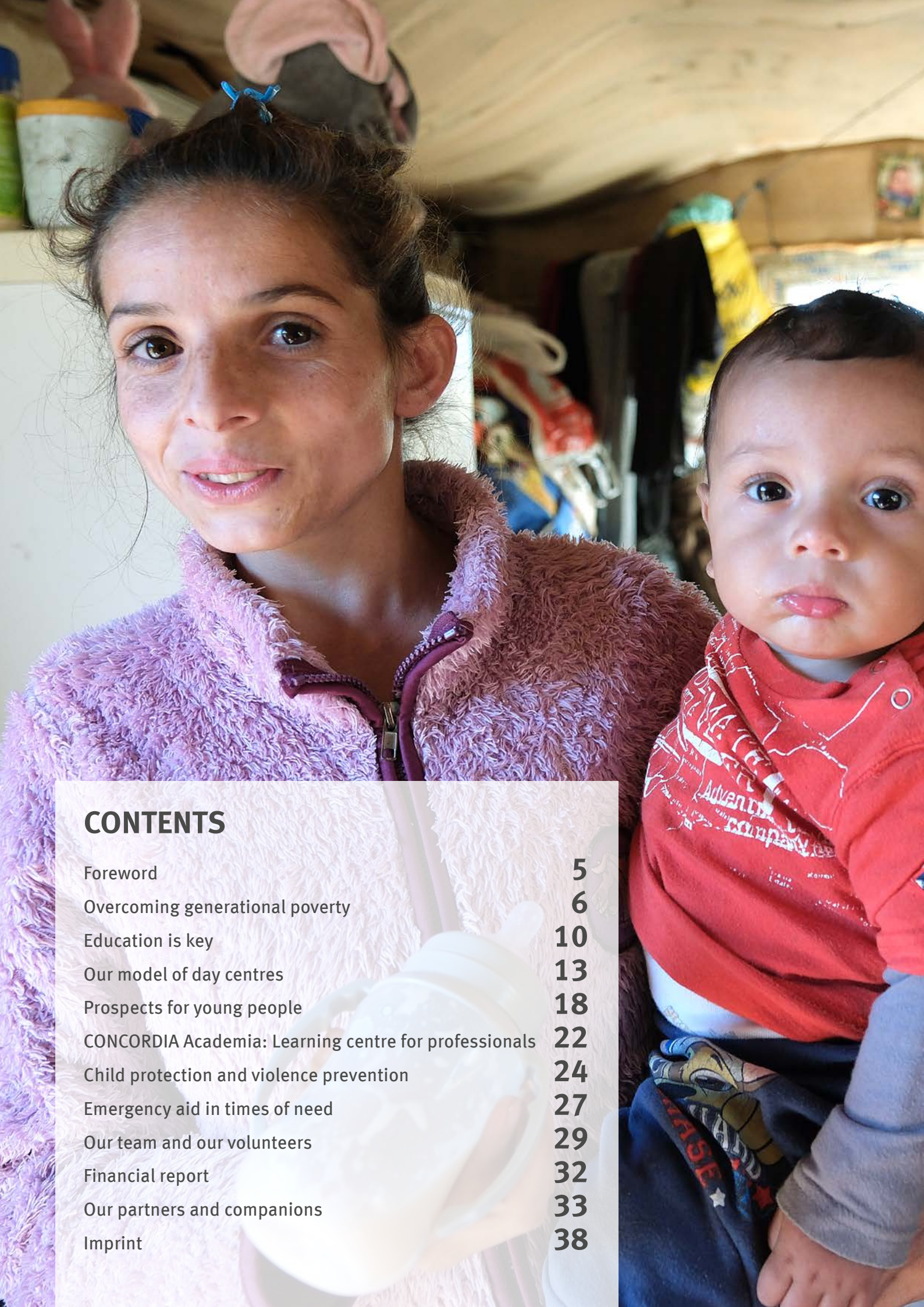




# **CONCORDIA Social Projects**

Impact Report 2023/24





## **CONTENTS**

Foreword	<b>5</b>
Overcoming generational poverty	<b>6</b>
Education is key	<b>10</b>
Our model of day centres	<b>13</b>
Prospects for young people	<b>18</b>
CONCORDIA Academia: Learning centre for professionals	<b>22</b>
Child protection and violence prevention	<b>24</b>
Emergency aid in times of need	<b>27</b>
Our team and our volunteers	<b>29</b>
Financial report	<b>32</b>
Our partners and companions	<b>33</b>
Imprint	<b>38</b>





On the cover of the impact report: Georgi\*. He is the youngest and fifth child of 25-year-old Biljana (pictured). Every day after school, three of her children attend the CONCORDIA day care centre in the Bulgarian village of Malki Iskar, which offers children and mothers educational, health, psychological and social support.

Together with her husband and children, Biljana lives in a leaky former lorry container measuring barely more than 10 m<sup>2</sup> in a secluded settlement. They have no toilet or shower. There is no running water. When it rains, the path to their home sinks into the mud. Despite these circumstances, Biljana's children attend school and the CONCORDIA day care centre every day. Biljana's eldest son was honoured for his school achievements, while she herself dropped out of school at the age of 15 and had her first child a year later. The father works in forestry and is only at home in the evenings. The situation in other families in her neighbourhood is similar.

**There are many such neighbourhoods in Bulgaria, called mahalas, where mainly Roma live. Poverty has been a constant companion here for generations.**

Participation in social and educational programmes is a key factor in breaking this vicious circle.

\*In accordance with our child protection policy, the names of the children and young people in our care have been changed.

**CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS**  
**WORKING FOR CHILDREN IN NEED SINCE 1991.**  
For a self-determined life out of marginalisation.

[www.concordia-socialprojects.org](http://www.concordia-socialprojects.org)

We reached **27,000** children,  
young people and adults in need  
and over 10,000 people as part of the Ukraine  
emergency aid programme in 2023.

of which **14,810** are children

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
**21,225**

ROMANIA  
**2,393**

AUSTRIA  
**619**

KOSOVO  
**916**

BULGARIA  
**1,797**





Dear friends,

„Human dignity is inviolable“ - this concept is at the heart of everything we do and is what guides our daily work at CONCORDIA each and every year.

This dignity is violated when children are born into the world without being given the chance of fulfilling their potential due to the vicious circle of inter-generational poverty that still exists in parts of Europe today.

We have been trying to break this vicious circle individually, and systemically for 32 years. In 2023, we expanded our sphere of influence and reached a total of 27,000 children, young people and adults in need. These figures reflect our commitment and determination to preserve and promote the dignity of everyone under our care.

The terrible war in Ukraine reached new heights last year. As a result we supported over 8000 refugees: in Austria, Romania and Bulgaria, we focused on social integration. In Moldova, (where over 100,000 people found refuge in 2023), many commute depending on the intensity of the shelling in their region, and most children continue to receive online lessons from their Ukrainian teachers. As long as the war continues, we will stand by these people.

The broader CONCORDIA community has continued to grow and now includes 120,000 people who regularly support us, mainly from the DACH region, but also in our programme countries. We have entered into strategic partnerships with international organisations that share our mission. To date we have eleven „proud partnerships“ with companies who enable us to continue our work uninterrupted and with collaborative power.

The fight for a dignified life is at the centre of our mission. This is supported by 550 dedicated employees and over 450 volunteers in seven countries, as well as the ever-growing CONCORDIA community, who enable children to spread their wings. Thank you to everyone who contributed in 2023.

With best regards,  
Executive Board CONCORDIA Social Projects





**Almost a quarter of children in Europe today are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. (Eurostat 2023)**

## **OVERCOMING GENERATIONAL POVERTY**

### **BREAKING THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF INTER-GENERATIONAL POVERTY**

There are still regions in Europe where children and young people live in extreme poverty and as a result are entirely marginalised. As a result there are limited opportunities, if none to enable them to live independent lives. In the countries where CONCORDIA works, child poverty is closely linked to inter-generational poverty and the cycles perpetuate themselves ensuring disadvantages remain across generations.

Marginalised communities (including ethnic minorities) in rural areas often face greater challenges in accessing economic opportunities.

Tackling inter-generational poverty in Eastern Europe and the Balkans requires political will and social commitment to address structural inequality while promoting sustainable economic growth, good governance and social cohesion. This includes investing in education and training, promoting job creation and entrepreneurship, strengthening social safety nets and institutions, as well

as a proactive commitment to cohesion and democracy so that even the most vulnerable members of society can participate. International cooperation is also crucial in the fight against poverty. Only through collective efforts can we put an end to inter-generational poverty and create a fairer and more inclusive society.

Children who grow up in poverty are often affected by severe material and social deprivation throughout their lives. Loss of learning at a young age can lead to children falling behind at school with little chance of them catching up at a later stage. Without access to healthcare, they are less likely to grow up healthy and develop well.

Vulnerable children usually face psychological and emotional challenges and negative experiences such as social exclusion and discrimination. Roma children are particularly at risk. Only half of them have access to early childhood education and care, and in some countries less than 10% complete secondary school.

A third of the Moldovan labour force lives abroad. Many parents leave the country to find work in the European Union or Russia. This has led to a large number of “social orphans” - children whose parents are still alive but working away from their home base, leaving them in the care of relatives or, in many cases, state institutions. In Moldova, around 21% of children

**150,000 children and adolescents - face the reality of having at least one parent working outside of the country. There are approximately 35,000 children currently who have to look after themselves because their parents aren't there.**

(CASTLE Policy Brief 2023)

In 2011, 75% of Roma people in Bulgaria lived in segregated communities, compared to only 49% in 1980”. This segregation has led to a dramatic increase in poverty rates within these communities.

**Poverty is ten times more common in the Roma community than in the Bulgarian population as a whole.**

(DG IPOL Study 2011)

**One in five children lives in extreme poverty,**

and the situation is even worse for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, over 60 per cent of whom live in absolute poverty.

(UNICEF Kosovo)

**In Romania, the rate of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion is 41.5% (2021).**

Over 50% of Roma children aged 6 to 15 attend schools where the majority of pupils are from the Roma community.

(Eurochild 2023)

”

**We work in the two poorest countries in Europe and the two poorest countries in the EU. Tackling the root causes of child poverty requires customised interventions in different countries. In Moldova, for example, the impact of migration has put many children in vulnerable situations, while in Bulgaria and Romania problems of parallel systems and marginalisation need to be addressed.**

Bernhard Drumel, CONCORDIA Managing Director



## THE CONCORDIA IMPACT MODEL FOR PREVENTING AND COMBATING CHILD POVERTY

CONCORDIA's community-based care efforts activate existing networks to support vulnerable children and families. Where resources are lacking, CONCORDIA works with

local stakeholders to develop community-based services that support vulnerable community members.

### PATH 1 – CHILD CARE

CONCORDIA's community-based care efforts activate existing networks to support vulnerable children and families. Where resources are lacking, CONCORDIA works with local stakeholders to develop community-based services that support vulnerable community members.



**334 children and young people** lived at CONCORDIA in 2023.

- 17** family-like residential groups
- 3** crisis centres for children/mothers with children
- 12** assisted living centres for young adults

### PATH 2 – COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTION/COMMUNITY WORK

CONCORDIA's efforts in the area of community-based care activate existing networks that support vulnerable children and families. Where resources are lacking, CONCORDIA works with local stakeholders to develop community-based services and support community members who need them the most.



**25,336 children, young people and adults** benefited from our community-based family social work in 2023.

at **32 locations** and through outreach social work

**256,019** km travelled by our teams in 2023 to reach as many people as possible

over **17,000** food and hygiene parcels distribute

**375,655 hot meals** – Many poor families cannot afford a hot meal on a regular basis. A hungry child cannot concentrate. We want children to grow up healthy and promote knowledge about having a nutritious diet.



### PATH 3 - GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Access to education is a human right. CONCORDIA works to remove barriers preventing this access by providing transport and access to learning materials. It also creates support systems for children and young people most in need. In collaboration with educators and decision-makers, CONCORDIA enables conducive learning environments and customised pathways for learners from disadvantaged groups.



**1,713 children, young people and adults benefited from our education programmes in 2023.**

### PATH 4 - EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL BUSINESS

Many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds need additional support to access employment opportunities. CONCORDIA provides mentoring, job coaching and advocacy to ensure fair employment practices and continuous professional development. By empowering employers to understand and address the specific needs of marginalised youth, CONCORDIA creates pathways for inclusive economic participation.

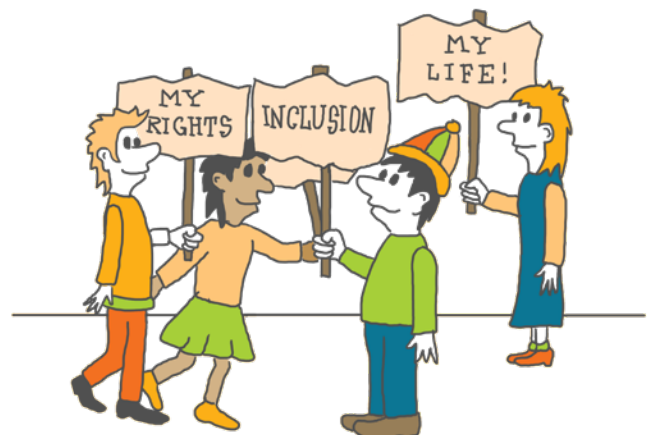


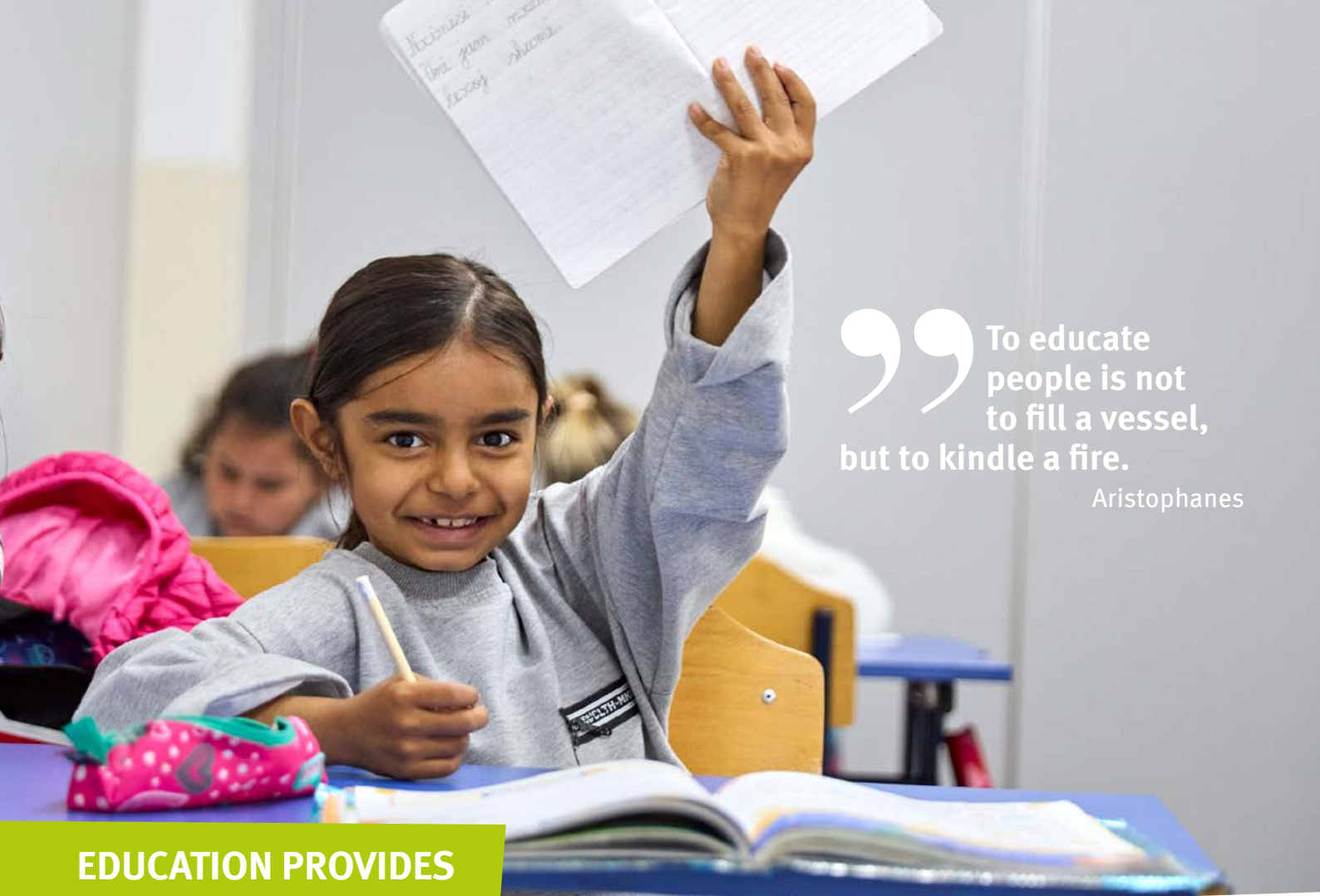
**216 young adults** received support through **job coaching, vocational training** or a **a job** in one of our social businesses.

### PATH 5 - EMPOWERMENT

Children and young people are empowered to become informed citizens and agents of change. CONCORDIA educates them about their rights and encourages them to engage with their peers and speak up and stand up for their rights. By providing accessible information and opportunities for participation, we include their voices in decision-making processes, promoting greater social responsibility and inclusion in society.

We reached and empowered **1,711 children, young people and adults** through our **empowerment programme.**





“To educate people is not to fill a vessel, but to kindle a fire.

Aristophanes

## EDUCATION PROVIDES THE TURNING POINT

Many of the young people we work with still have limited or no access to education. Despite legislation, these children are excluded from learning with their peers. Furthermore they face discrimination because they either come from disadvantaged communities, have a disability, are female, have been left behind by their family, or belong to an ethnic minority.

At CONCORDIA, we want to bridge these gaps by advocating for diversity, inclusion and equity in education. This means tackling institutional barriers and actively addressing social and racial discrimination by investing in young people affected by marginalisation and segregation.

### CONCORDIA INTERVENTIONS AND THE KEY POSITIONS ON EDUCATION:

- 1 Free primary and secondary education ✓
- 2 Equal access to quality pre-school education ✓
- 3 Increasing the number of people with relevant skills for financial success ✓
- 4 Affordable technical, vocational and higher education ✓
- 5 Elimination of all discrimination in education ✓
- 6 Universal literacy and numeracy ✓
- 7 Education for sustainable development ✓

#### CONCORDIA inclusive primary school

The fourth first class of our primary school started in autumn 2023. There are 84 pupils and four class rooms and now the school is at capacity after four years of existence. Over half of the children come from disadvantaged backgrounds. **Forty children pay school fees and with additional donations this enables a further 44 children to attend school.**







**Priority 1:**  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

Pre-school education is an essential part of a child’s life journey. As part of our activities, we provide early education opportunities, prioritising the poorest and most difficult to access children. Our multidisciplinary teams, (who collaborate with parents and communities), welcome preschool-aged children on a daily basis. Each day they are nourished and receive support that encompasses psychosocial, cognitive and physical development.

**Priority 2:**  
**BASIC EDUCATION (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL)**

Our socio-inclusive approach ensures access to education for all, helping vulnerable children to successfully complete school and develop as individuals. In addition to traditional learning support, we focus on learning social-emotional skills, sports and musical-creative content through innovative teaching methods that place the child at the centre of all educational efforts.



**Priority 3:**  
**VOCATIONAL TRAINING & JOB COACHING**

CONCORDIA’s dedication enables cross-sector collaboration and provides examples of customised educational and vocational training for learners from disadvantaged families who have missed out on several years of formal education.



**OPENING THE DOOR TO AN INDEPENDENT LIFE**

The vocational school on the CONCORDIA Edu-Campus in Ploiești/Romania provides integrative vocational training and counselling for bakers and confectioners, cooks and waiters

**59 young adults attended the vocational school in 2023.**

**24 out of 28 vocational school students who graduated in May 2023, found employment immediately.**





#### Priority 4: SCHOOL FOR LIFE

CONCORDIA's "School for Life" principle helps young people in their transition process by supporting them in the development of interpersonal skills. These include self-awareness, problem-solving, negotiation skills, decision-making, creative and critical thinking, effective communication, interpersonal relationship skills, conflict resolution, empathy, dealing with emotions, stress management, financial management, starting a family and budgeting. The approach aims to empower young people and young care leavers, to move confidently into an independent and healthy adult life.

#### Priority 5: BUILDING CAPACITY AT A SYSTEMIC LEVEL

In addition to our ongoing efforts to deliver social services to vulnerable children and communities, we are increasing our impact through the CONCORDIA Academia training programme for professionals. Our training programme bridges the gap between theory and practice, benefiting numerous organisations, families and children. In this way, CONCORDIA makes an important and necessary civil society contribution to the upskilling of the social sector and enhancing professional exchange.

#### Priority 6: ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

Advocacy in the field of education highlights what stands in the way of the right to education and campaigns for additional resources.

Systematic barriers in education prevent the most vulnerable children from accessing basic human rights namely education and non-discrimination. We recognise that the reasons for discrimination, segregation and exclusion are myriad, complex and context-dependent.

CONCORDIA sees its role not only as a service provider, but also as a support for civil societies (in our partner countries) to claim their own right to education.

#### Priority 7: EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

CONCORDIA promotes the placement of refugee children in national education systems and, if this is not possible, supports their learning needs with language courses, supervised online learning, etc.

## STORY

Ardisan (27/Kosovo), a single father of two and school dropout, was given a second chance with CONCORDIA. He finished school and is now studying tourism management. He is also campaigning for education in his neighbourhood. This is how it can work! Here in a short interview:

▶ [click here](#)







## OUR DAY CARE CENTRE MODEL

**Services offered** – one hot meal per day, material support (clothing, shoes, food and hygiene products), homework guidance, tutoring, extra-curricular activities, psychological counselling - intervention for children and parents, social counselling for parents.

## 17 CONCORDIA day care centres

Bulgaria (2), Kosovo (1), Moldova (10), Romania (3) and Austria (1) support over **5,000 children**, young people and their families



Speaking: Diana Certan - CONCORDIA Romania Director on the need for day care centres in urban and rural areas to eradicate child poverty.

## 26. SEPTEMBER 2023/BUKAREST

Together with CentreZI Romania and FONSS Romania CONCORDIA Romania has created the “Education Association for Real Life”. Under this label, there is a network of 143 active members who are all committed to the expansion and state (co-)financing of child daycare centres. In September 2023, the network organised its first major

conference on the topic of “Child daycare centres - investing in the prevention of family and school dropout”. The conference was attended by representatives of the facilities as well as decision-makers from politics and administration to seek the best solutions for the development and funding of daycare centres.

A school dropout rate of 28% and 44% of Romanian illiterate children illustrate a wider systemic failure. (World Bank 2022)

There are currently 800-day care centres in Romania. We need 3000 to effectively combat child poverty. This gap is primarily a result of the historical lack of social services, especially in rural areas where social services are barely functioning, if they exist at all.

As Romania has the highest rates of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU, the recent adoption of a national action plan marks an important point of progress. The commitment is to reduce the number of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 500,000 by 2030.



“Without education, you are nobody. Education offers both employment opportunities and the freedom to choose the career you want.

Bajramshah (16)/Kosovo

## STORY

Bajramshah is one of over 100 children who visit the CONCORDIA Tranzit day centre in Prizren/Kosovo every day. She lives close by in a small, unfinished house with two older sisters and her 43-year-old father. The family's economic situation is anything but easy. Life has been tough for the family in every respect and her critically ill mother recently passed away.

Unlike other families in the neighbourhood, Bajramshah's father does have a regular (even small) income earned by working at a market stall outside the city. It is difficult for members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minorities in Prizren, to find work. "My father is the one who encouraged and motivated me to continue my education. But without CONCORDIA, I wouldn't have been able to continue school because of our financial situation," says Bajramshah.

The cycle of poverty in which her parents' generation was trapped would have continued. Without a school-leaving certificate, there is little chance of gaining a foothold in the labour market later on and without a regular income, there are few opportunities to escape the spiral of poverty.

But Bajramshah is now attending a fashion design school and completing vocational training as a seamstress. The fact that she chose this path is not a given. Girls from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are particularly at risk of dropping out of school early and either marrying or being forced to marry at an early age. Prevention, education and awareness-raising of these children and parents by our social workers is just as important as the daily hot meal, learning support and support for the whole family that they receive. The day care centre has become a second home for Bajramshah. She finds a pleasant atmosphere there and can engage in meaningful leisure activities like playing music in the orchestra. Parties are celebrated together, and she can rely on professional and empathetic support from our social workers if she has any problems. Bajramshah has big dreams to be a fashion designer and one day open her own shop. We believe she can do it.



**Kosovo: A third of women living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities was married before the age of 18. The actual percentage is likely to be much higher, as many child marriages are never registered. The majority of child marriages involve girls.**  
(The Kosovo Agency of Statistics 2014)



## THE TRANSFORMATIVE EFFECT OF CONCORDIA DAY CARE CENTRES



## CHILDREN

**short term**

- Enrolment in formal education
- Increased the graduation rate, improving school results
- Reduction in verbal and physical aggression and violence
- Improved hygiene levels

**long term**

- Preventing the child from being separated from their family to reduce school dropouts
- Acquisition of independent life skills
- Development of economic potential
- School, family, social and professional integration
- Increased well-being and personal development



## FAMILY

**short term**

- Raising awareness about the importance of education
- Greater involvement of parents in school education
- Reducing violence against children
- Improving the quality of family relationships
- Facilitating access to job opportunities and developing the skills needed by the labour market
- Improving hygiene standards
- Improving access to social services

**long term**

- Preventing the separation of children from their families
- Development of economic potential
- Supporting families in building an independent life
- Improving living conditions



## COMMUNITY

**short term**

- Improving the quality of family life
- Improving relationships between members of the community
- Increase the level of participation of individuals and families in the well-being of the community
- Increasing children's participation in early education

**long term**

- Reducing the phenomenon of „street children“
- Reduction in discrimination
- Social, economic and environmental development of local communities



### A wonderful woof. Partner with Four paws

We are delighted to be working with the “Academy for Children’s Ambassadors for Animal Welfare”. This programme for children in CONCORDIA day care centres teaches them new knowledge and skills in caring for animals. This promotes their sense of responsibility and empathy.

### We do have fun too

Every child should learn how to cook well and healthily. That’s why CONCORDIA regularly organises **cookery workshops** where we teach children how to handle food carefully and prepare simple dishes with them. This is one of the many activities that take place at our day care centres.



Thanks to the synergy built up between parents, teachers and the club’s pedagogical team, none of the children and young people training at the club dropped out of school in 2023.

### Experience the magic of football

We offer various free sports and excursion activities for children and young people. That said, our CONCORDIA football club in Sofia is a very special project.

2023

**100+** football matches

**290** football training sessions

**3** teams (juniors, a boys and a girls’ team)

**220** children, **57** of whom are officially registered for participation in the Bulgarian Football Federation Junior Championship.



### EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO DREAM, GROW AND SHINE.

Our team at Football Club 2023 was able to fulfil 10-year-old Stoyan’s biggest wish. The football club was contacted by the popular Bulgarian social TV show “Home Makeover”. An editor told them about a boy called Stoyan

and his dream of coaching football. As his parents were unable to pay the fees and equipment, Stoyan could not fulfil this dream.

The TV programme team researched where free football training was offered in Sofia and found the only possible place - the CONCORDIA football club.

Naturally, the team gladly accepted the idea of giving Stoyan the opportunity to experience the magic of football. So he came to training for the first time with his parents and five siblings. Initially apprehensive, the team quickly found the right approach so that by the end of the training session, Stoyan was already part of the team. Since then, he and his family have also received socio-educational support from our neighbouring day care centre.

Since Stoyan has been part of the CONCORDIA football team, his school performance has improved. Not only good at football he is also a good pupil.

STORY





## LONG-TERM PARTNER: RENOVABIS

### Martin Lenz

Head of the Department for Project Work and Countries at Renovabis - German Catholics' Solidarity Campaign with the People of Central and Eastern Europe

**Renovabis and CONCORDIA have a long history. In Kosovo, Renovabis has been supporting the CONCORDIA day care centre Tranzit for years. You have been there several times. What was your impression?**

CONCORDIA and Renovabis have been „travelling“ together since 1995. In addition to projects in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, we have also supported projects in Bulgaria.

Nevertheless, my impression of the day care centre in Prizren is consistently positive. During my visits, I was able to see how important and valuable CONCORDIA's work is on site. The centre not only offers the children and young people a safe place, but also important educational and care

services that promote their development. I am particularly impressed by the commitment and dedication of the local team, who work every day to sustainably improve the living conditions of the children and therefore the entire community.

**What do you expect from the partnership between Renovabis and CONCORDIA in terms of the realisation of children's rights?**

The partnership between Renovabis and CONCORDIA aims to sustainably strengthen children's rights in the region. Through our collectiveness, we hope to make a significant contribution to ensuring that children in Prizren (and beyond) have access to education, protection and a safe environment. This partnership should help to bring about systematic and systemic changes that firmly anchor children's rights in social structures and significantly improve their future prospects.

**What do you consider to be the most important cornerstones of the cooperation between our two organisations?**

In my view, the most important cornerstones of our cooperation are trust, shared values and long-term goals. Trust is the basis of any successful partnership. Our shared values - especially our commitment to social justice and supporting the most vulnerable in society - unite us and guide our work. Finally, our focus on long-term goals is crucial to achieving sustainable change and improving the living conditions of children and young people in the long term.



**The Moldovan Minister of Social Affairs Alexei Buzu and CONCORDIA Executive director Bernhard Drumel after signing the memorandum.**

### Cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Moldova

We are delighted to announce our partnership with the Moldovan Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the signing of a memorandum of understanding that consolidates our cooperation for the next three years. This is more than just a declaration of intent. It is a promise to achieve common goals for the benefit of the population of the Republic of Moldova. Through CONCORDIA Academia, we will provide training and support for the Ministry's employees in the social sector. As the largest aid organisation in the country, we are pleased to be able to contribute to the further development of social services in Moldova through our practical experience and proven models.

” It’s very important to create a safe place for children and give them opportunities to get out of their environment. Excursions, travelling or - I don’t know - anything to open their horizons and see that more is possible.

Mirabela (23, Romania)

### A STRONG VOICE FOR CARE LEAVERS

Mirabela was one of 16 babies who found a new home at CONCORDIA 23 years ago. As a result she escaped from the precarious conditions of Romanian children’s homes. She has gone through the process of moving from large children’s homes to small, family-like groups and has come to terms with her origins and identity. It has been a long journey to get here, but today she is a self-confident young woman who is in control of herself and can manage to lead a happy, self-determined life despite difficult starting conditions. Mirabela completed her master’s degree in social work in 2023 and would like to work with children in external care in the future.

In order for babies in need of help to mature into personalities like Mirabela, they need the care of reliable, long-term carers, encouragement, commitment and compassion for their worries. It is equally important to have confidence in them and to offer them opportunities to spread their wings.

**Educational projects such as the CONCORDIA vocational school and our social enterprises (hostel, bakery, hairdressing salon, candle and pottery workshop) are essential for young adults to gain initial experience, self-confidence and independence.**



## YOUTH IN FOCUS – INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CHANGE

Over the past year, our programme experts have been working intensively on further development of CONCORDIA's services for young people and young adults. Through the process of international dialogue our aim was to identify tried-and-tested models and to continuously improve on successful models and put them into practice.

The CONCORDIA youth programme is aimed at young people from vulnerable groups and communities. Some of them have spent some time in special protection centres and are in transition to an independent life, some have come into conflict with the law, and others come from families affected by extreme poverty and have difficulties continuing their education.

### CONCORDIA'S YOUTH WORK INCLUDES

- a safe framework for the development of young people who are forced to live apart from their families.
- a stimulating space where multidisciplinary teams support young people in developing independent life skills.
- The programme is tailored to those who have dropped out of formal education and need an accelerated qualification in a profession that matches their talents.
- Mentoring support to help young people learn communication, interaction, teamwork and other skills necessary for career success.
- Sheltered work environments for young people who find it difficult to integrate and stay employed.

### TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, CONCORDIA ALSO INVESTS IN

- the development of quality services to protect young people from vulnerable families, groups and communities
- Day care centres
- Family and social housing
- Psychosocial and financial support
- Work skills development programmes for young people, CONCORDIA staff and partner organisations

### ■ Building partnerships with educational institutions, local and national authorities responsible for youth work, economic stakeholders and other civil organisations

- High schools and vocational schools
- Local and national authorities responsible for the protection of vulnerable young people
- Companies and social enterprises
- Cultural organisations
- Lobbying to improve policy and practice
- Empowering young people to participate in decisions that affect them
- Supporting public authorities to provide tailored and effective support models for NEETs,
- Working with educational institutions, local authorities and economic stakeholders to develop vocational training systems that are contextual because they are adapted to local needs.
- Conducting impact assessments and seeking mutual learning opportunities from other organisations with similar goals.

## FACTS

The number of young people aged 15-29 who are neither employed, educated or trained (NEET) remains the highest in the EU at 19.8 % in Romania.

(Eurostat 2024)

These target groups represent a critical demographic for specific interventions (with social impact) to tackle poverty, discrimination, gaps in education and access to healthcare and employment.



## STORY

### A ROLE MODEL DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A HERO

Marian is 19 years old and lives in Sofia. Since March 2023, he has been living in a residential home for young adults run by CONCORDIA because he had to leave the flat, he was staying in and suddenly had no accommodation. Marian has emotional and cognitive difficulties and as a result receives is multi-faceted. On the one hand, he has a safe place to stay in the Timok youth centre where he avoids the risk of social exclusion. On the other our multidisciplinary team including a psychologist, psychiatrist and speech therapist are analysing the best ways to support his needs. Our team works to ensure that he can access specialised services that can aid him. The next steps are to prepare him to leave our supported transitional living centre and find the best possible long-term accommodation for him. It will be a success for him if he is able to continue his life without needing constant care.



## THE YOUTH IN MOLDOVA: HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE DESPITE POVERTY AND WAR

### WINGS FOR ION



**Ion (22 years old), lives in Chişinău/Republic of Moldova and is studying systems engineering at the Technical University of Moldova. Driven by the desire to become financially independent, he applied for a Wings4Youth scholarship for his business idea. Ion prints 3D objects and engraves them with lasers. He sells his creations online and promotes his company on social media. We invited teenagers and young adults to share their personal views on the past year. This is Ion's contribution:**

**ION'S ARTICLE:**

#### ION'S ARTICLE:

Like everyone else, I have been affected by the humanitarian crises that have hit us like an avalanche in recent years. The war in the neighbouring country, poverty and lack of access to clean water are just some of the problems that people here are facing. The armed conflict across the border has affected all aspects of our lives: financial, social and humanitarian. Economic inequality has become much more pronounced. When the war began, products and medicines imported from Ukraine were no longer supplied. As a result, they could no longer be found on the market or were sold at a much higher price. However, with the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in our cities, new employment opportunities related to the refugee crisis have emerged. NGOs were looking for new labour and offered attractive salaries. Young people got involved as volunteers and this experience will help them build their careers.

The war has also led to great insecurity. Some young people from Transnistria were forced to take part in the war in Ukraine, and propaganda suggesting that young people from Moldova could be called up to fight has caused panic. The war has also led to numerous cases of discrimination based on the language spoken and fuelled disputes over the status of the official language.

Energy security has been another serious problem in Moldova, as electricity is also supplied by Ukraine. Prices have risen considerably and there have

been cases of power cuts. The biggest fear was that the electricity would go off throughout the country. I am studying engineering in the field of energy and am committed to finding solutions to my country's problems. I am constantly looking for ways to optimise energy consumption and diversify our sources of supply.

Political crises have a big impact on a young person's life. There is always change, and we are often drawn to different politicians who want to make a difference together, but often there is only talk and no action.

Political conflicts have a negative impact not only locally but also internationally, affecting both the economic and social spheres. This instability always drives us to look for employment opportunities elsewhere or to give up our careers and leave the country. It has a significant impact on us as the economy is intertwined with politics. Low wages and high costs mean that people have to take out loans with very high interest rates.

Life is not easy for the youth in Moldova, but we are a resilient and resourceful generation. We adapt to difficult circumstances and find ways to thrive despite the obstacles. We hope for a better future for ourselves and our country, for peace, stability and prosperity.

**CONCORDIA Wings4Youth is a project to promote employment opportunities for young adults who have grown up partly, or entirely in external care. These so-called 'care-leavers' are embarking on the journey to live a self-determined, independent life.**

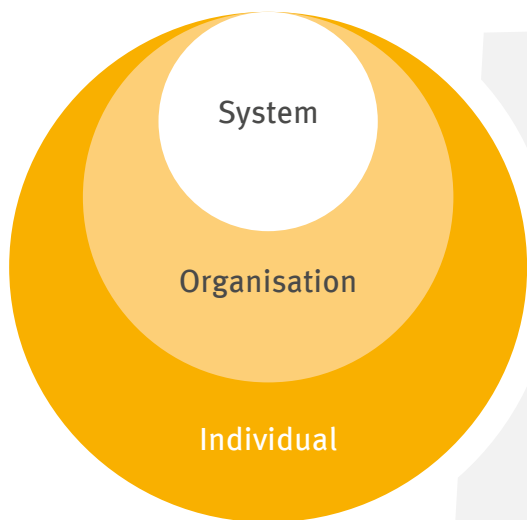


## CONCORDIA ACADEMIA: LEARNING CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONALS

The quality of care is paramount.

CONCORDIA Academia is our **learning centre for professionals in the social sector**. Thanks to its many years of **experience and expertise**, it has **established practice-oriented further training for social professions**.

CONCORDIA Academia **consists of a network of over 130 professionals and is a vibrant and dynamic source of inspiration**. Its members work together for the continuous development and resilience of the social sector.



### 3 LEVELS OF IMPACT:

#### Individual level

We focus on personalised learning and development experiences that are tailored to the needs of professionals.

#### Organisational level

We offer comprehensive programmes and support services to improve the capacity and effectiveness of social organisations.

#### Systemic level

We support qualitative and transformative impact at the systems level through valuable partnerships and the promotion of exchange.

### Courses and training programmes:

- Social management
- Supervision
- Practitioner in the social sector
- Measures for mental health
- Masterclass “Social Intervention”
- Strengthening diversity. Strategies for special educational support
- HR strategy
- Digital tools in social work
- Case Management

### Support & counselling services:

- Supervision
- Coaching
- Mentoring
- Organisational assessment and diagnosis
- Design of learning experiences
- Organisational development
- Strategic planning



The Academia course programme in detail  
[www.concordia-academia.ro](http://www.concordia-academia.ro)

## ACADEMIA RETROSPECTIVE 2023

■ **200+** graduates from certified long-term training courses

■ **840** participants, representing 180 public and private organisations, took part in various training formats

▶ Highlights 2023 Video:

▶ [klick hier](#)



In May 2023, our Academia organised an international event in collaboration with the NGO Academy. This event brought professionals from six countries together and gave them the opportunity to experience different perspectives and enter into lively debates on specialist topics. We constantly strive to create opportunities for individuals to expand their skills and knowledge to contribute to their growth and development in their chosen field. We offer various learning experiences that promote resilience, innovation and (self-)organisation. In 2023, we initiated a transcultural organisational development programme that focuses on promoting a healthy culture of self-care at an institutional level.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Several training sessions on organisational consulting, concept development and strategic planning were held with organisations such as Action Against Hunger, Save the Children International, UNICEF Romania, Ateliers sans Frontières, Federation of NGOs for Children, Monomyths Association and eLiberare. In addition, collaboration with various public, local and regional child protection and social work departments underlines our commitment to promoting individual professional development and quality organisational development.

## INNOVATION

As part of Academia activities, we are increasingly focusing on developing programmes to train professionals and organisations to innovate. The success of a hackathon event has encouraged us to continue testing these new initiatives.

**New course offering:** „Social Intervention for Mental Health”, focuses on case management for personality disorders and anxiety and depression. It provides profes-

sionals with the tools to address the complex needs of people with anxiety, depression, addictions and personality disorders.

Its aimed at professionals who deal directly with people at risk of various mental health problems. This course was developed in collaboration with the Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences and focuses on evidence-based practices, crisis intervention and innovative approaches.

In the “Social Intervention for Mental Health” master-class, participants explore self-awareness, relationship dynamics and the fundamental values that characterise social work. Through dynamic learning approaches, they embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery and explore their professional identity, capacity for resilience and what determines success.

**The iCare project** aims to build resilient and inclusive care communities that improve the overall health and well-being of patients with serious illness or in the end-of-life phase. It includes a training programme for healthcare professionals and caregivers in Romania, Austria and Portugal, as well as the development of accessible learning materials on the CONCORDIA Academia platform. With iCare, we offer comprehensive training and support for professionals and carers in palliative care, addressing the trauma of loss, integrating perspectives on death and promoting acceptance.

Our **scholarships for professionals in the social sector** enable companies to support our actions in a targeted manner and to assume social responsibility within the framework of CSR projects. Investing in well-trained professionals and well-resourced organisations leads to systemic impact, with direct and immediate impact on beneficiaries and sustainable, scalable projects. A scholarship enables a social worker (who works with an average of 500 people per year) access to personal and professional development.

Over **800** professionals participate in CONCORDIA Academia's training programmes and learning activities each year. This means that over **400,000** children, young people, families and people from vulnerable communities are positively impacted by our systemic interventions in the medium to long term every year.



## CHILD PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

### AS A CHILDREN'S AID ORGANISATION, CHILD PROTECTION IS A TOP PRIORITY.

At CONCORDIA, child protection and well-being are our top priorities. As a children's aid organisation, we are committed to protecting children at risk and upholding children's rights and these causes form the foundation of our daily work. For this reason, we decided to have our internal

child protection mechanisms audited by the independent organisation Keeping Children Safe. Thanks to the financial support of our partner Remus Innovation GmbH, we were able to utilise the necessary resources for rapid certification in order to review and certify our child protection guidelines. This audit was crucial for us to ensure that our child protection measures meet the highest standards.



“The certification is of the utmost importance to us, as child protection is our top priority. We work with children every day and are proud that our well-functioning child protection mechanisms help to protect them from any harm in the best possible way. At the same time, we see the certification as recognition of the work and commitment of our teams.

Martina Raytchinova  
International Child Safeguarding Officer and  
Programme director at CONCORDIA Social Projects



## WHO IS KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE?

Keeping Children Safe is an international non-profit organisation dedicated exclusively to the protection of children. It sets globally recognised standards for child protection in organisations. Keeping Children Safe's main aim is to end child abuse in all organisations and their vision is to create a world where all children can grow up protected from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

The certification confirms that CONCORDIA provides a comprehensive framework for safeguarding children and ensures the highest standards of child protection. We are delighted to have been awarded

Level 1 certification from Keeping Children Safe. The CONCORDIA Child Safeguarding Policy defines how we work to protect children from psychological, physical and sexual violence and when to take preventative steps to enforce these guidelines.

The CONCORDIA child protection concept was developed in a participatory manner. As a result we hold mandatory child protection briefings and created an implementation manual in all languages. Every day the processes guide the quality control in the work with children and young people at organisational level. All CONCORDIA employees are sensitised to recog-



nising signs that a child's welfare may be at risk and to initiating the next steps. Our specialists regularly exchange information in supervision sessions and attend cross-organisational training courses on child protection issues. They also manage potential risk situations within the organisation.

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EXPLAINED SIMPLY:



Children need to know their rights and be encouraged to stand up for them. Our top priority is to ensure that children are sensitised to their rights and their protection in an age-appropriate manner. We organise special workshops in our facilities that give children the opportunity to understand their rights.

 [click here](#)



## CONCORDIA VIOLENCE PROTECTION CENTRES

**Almost half of all children in Bulgaria have experienced some form of violence.**

(UNICEF 2021)

As a result we have established a crisis centre in Sofia for children and young people who have been victims of violence. There twelve girls and boys (under the age of 18) being cared for in the only facility of its kind in the whole of Sofia.

**1 in 3 children in the Republic of Moldova are victims of violence, sexualised violence, neglect or human trafficking.**

(UNICEF 2019)

CONCORDIA Moldova is working to provide intensive support for affected children and, in some cases, their mothers, in order to protect them and help them cope with trauma.

## STRATEGIC PARTNER: KINDERNOTHILFE

Kindernothilfe has supported CONCORDIA Ukraine Emergency Aid since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. We are very pleased about this partnership, which now extends beyond emergency aid for Ukrainians. In an interview: Carsten Montag, Programme Director of Kindernothilfe.

### How has the cooperation between CONCORDIA and Kindernothilfe developed and changed from an emergency aid programme to a strategic partnership?

I can hardly answer this question without briefly going back to the beginning. That was the day of the war of aggression in Ukraine. We at Kindernothilfe Deutschland discussed how to deal with the situation and what we could do in terms of emergency aid without having any major programme activities in Eastern Europe. We wanted to contribute our expertise and experience for the benefit of children on the run. So we did some research in our own network and, through our colleagues at Kindernothilfe, quickly discovered CONCORDIA. This resulted in an agreement to supply emergency aid to Ukrainian refugees. Since then, we have been supporting various emergency aid programmes in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries such as Romania and Moldova because we are convinced that we are making an important contribution to the realisation of children's rights in the region. What does strategic cooperation mean? In addition to supporting specific projects, we cooperate in other areas such as political work and reflect on how we can apply our joint experience in cooperation beyond the specific context.

### How do you see the long-term impact of the partnership between Kindernothilfe and CONCORDIA on the world of children's rights?

As I understand it, the common cause between CONCORDIA and Kindernothilfe - is to make a concrete contribution to all children in the region and that it will have a domino effect on children in other regions too. This is our contribution to a socially just society. We are looking at how we can utilise our respective experiences in other places and process them in such a way that they can also be incorporated into our political work.

We use our experiences at the micro level to make ourselves heard at the macro level. We ask ourselves: How can we position our common concerns for the implementation of children's rights in alliances and networks? Concerns that go beyond the concrete financing and implementation of projects. In Germany this is the Federal Association for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (VENRO). For me, these issues have a strategic dimension, both in terms of scope and in connection with longer-term cooperation.



**Carsten Montag, Programme Director  
of Kindernothilfe**

### What inspires you personally to stand up for the rights and welfare of children in need?

There is nothing better than working for children and young people. I haven't just felt this way since I had children myself. I have been involved in international cooperation in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe for 30 years. In humanitarian aid, reconstruction aid, peace promotion and prevention, reconciliation work and human rights work. What has stayed with me is working with children and young people as a target group. I've been with Kindernothilfe for six years now, and in working with children and young people I've seen what happens when we allow them to participate in discussions and decision-making processes. We may not always have better answers, but at least different answers that incorporate the perspective of children and young people in finding solutions. And that is important. It is their future after all and they will be around a lot longer than me.

I think the perspective, creativity and energy that young people bring to finding solutions is great. It motivates me and encourages me to stand up for children and young people.



# CONCORDIA WINTER EMERGENCY AID

for vulnerable families in Moldova

CONCORDIA distributes aid packages containing food and hygiene products to families most in need during the winter months.

In 2023, we were able to reach **16,700** people through the support of our cooperation partners and donors as part of our outreach work, including winter emergency aid.

**14,401** food and hygiene packages distributed



## Ukraine emergency aid: our support for refugees from Ukraine continues

With our Ukraine emergency aid activities, we are strengthening the existing infrastructure of emergency shelters and coordinating staff, volunteers, refugees and goods. We provide basic services, emergency accommodation, transport, first aid, psycho-emotional support and access to hygiene and sanitary facilities. We create an empowering environment for refugee children and young people by facilitating educational activities, online courses, sports and leisure activities. Refugee women are supported in forming self-organised and self-supporting structures. In addition, CONCORDIA provides refugees and asylum seekers with legal and social counselling and support with documentation the bureaucracy of the respective country requires.

In Moldova, the number of Ukrainian refugees has stabilised to 120,000 people. Since the beginning of the war, almost 334,000 children have fled from Ukraine to Moldova.

(UNHCR Mai 2024)

After offering immediate aid to those affected in the first few months after the war began, we were able to focus on optimising our services in 2023. Many refugees have decided to stay in a safe country, which also means that their needs are changing. We used the last year to evaluate where we can currently provide the best support. Our focus is now on long-term accommodation, good living conditions and integrative support on their path to a new life. We continue to provide food and other relief supplies.

We were able to support **10,000** people as part of the Ukraine emergency aid programme in 2023.

This is how many parcels we distributed to refugees in 2023:



**1921**  
food packages



**1062**  
hygiene packages

**LenZ is our day centre for children, young people and families at risk of exclusion in Vienna.**

Services offered: free learning support, parent counselling and education as well as accompanying social work, women's German café with childcare, language café, digitalisation courses for women, community action, a shared flat for young male adults

“The uprising began. The sirens frightened the children. And then I made the decision to protect my children.

Maria fled Ukraine with her four children. Find out here how they are doing in Moldova two years after the outbreak of war in Ukraine



▶ [click here](#)



Orhei has become my second home.



### Integration through language

Olena is one of the Ukrainian women who has been attending our language courses at our day care centre in Vienna. With audible success.



▶ [click here](#)



## STRONGER TOGETHER: OUR TEAM AND OUR VOLUNTEERS

### What do our full-time employees and volunteers have in common?

Regardless of their differing roles and regions, they are united by their commitment and solidarity and shared values such as respect, dignity and warmth. In 2023, the CONCORDIA team once again proved that the children and young people in our care can depend on them!

**Over 550 employees** have given their hearts and minds to our shared vision of a self-determined life, without exclusion, for all children. **458 local volunteers and 15 international volunteers** dedicated **26,053** hours to CONCORDIA's mission last year.



“My superpower is that I have a lot of energy for volunteering.”

Alexandru from Moldova is one of the many local volunteers. As someone with an affinity for spreadsheets, he was a great support for our full-time colleagues during the first “refugee wave” at the CONCORDIA office in Chişinău. Alexandru credits his volunteer work as the reason he has discovered his skills and self-confidence.

“To live means to encounter.”

I often think of this quote from the Jewish religious philosopher Buber when I support the teachers at the primary school on the Edu-Campus in Ploieşti. The integrative schooling there is unique in Romania: Half of the children come from poor backgrounds or have disabilities, and the other half are supported by their parents who can pay school fees.

The little ones are very affectionate and so infinitely grateful for the support they receive from “Domnul (Mr) Peter” and I am infinitely grateful that even as a volunteer at an advanced age I am able to have this enriching experience here.



Peter Larbig (64) from Bonn/Germany decided to volunteer with CONCORDIA in Romania under the motto “Live differently for ten months” after retiring from working life.

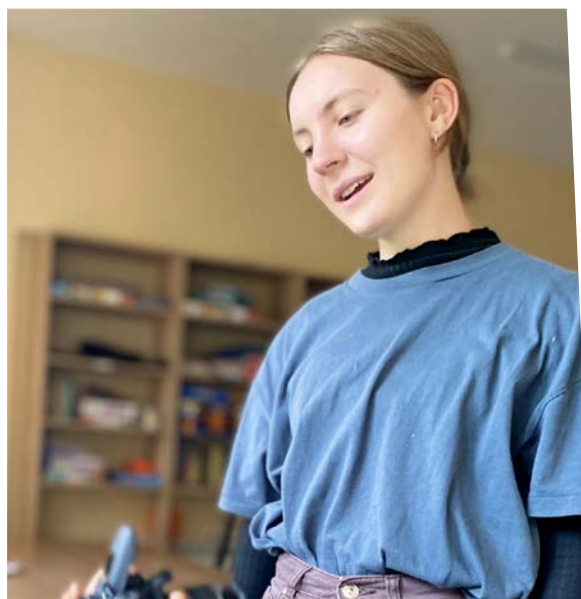
“The children, with whom I worked and learnt every day and whose progress I was able to observe for over six months, live in the poorest of circumstances, usually with up to ten siblings in a small house with two small bedrooms and a tiny kitchen. The poverty is pronounced and there is little space for privacy. And yet, or perhaps precisely because of this, I was able to witness what special people the children grow up to be, how exceptionally helpful and caring they are towards their siblings, classmates and us, and how strong their sense of loving togetherness and friendship is. I hope that it will be possible to welcome even more children into the “CONCORDIA family” in the future and accompany them on their journey through life.



Nana Veverka (21) from Perchtholdsdorf/Lower Austria spent her year volunteering at the CONCORDIA day centre in Odobești/Romania.

“When all bridges fall apart, we are still left with music.

This is what I have experienced over the last seven months during my voluntary service with CONCORDIA. I have been volunteering at a crisis centre in Sofia that provides short-term care for children and young people who have been victims of violence within and/or outside the family. In the meantime, the staff endeavour to provide the best possible accommodation for the children and young people for the time after their stay in the centre. This takes the form of family-like residential groups or, if possible, reintegration into their families. My main task is to look after and support the children and young people. As well as playing, doing arts and crafts and learning, I accompany them to important appointments, such as to the dentist or picking them up from school. I was very unsure at first in the crisis centre. In the beginning, there were only young people at the centre who were more interested in organising and maintaining their media channels than in an unknown and overwhelmed volunteer. However, I soon realised that music gave me access to the young people and later to the children too. It made them more open and accessible to me. I realised that music really helped them to process their feelings and the new situation. Through familiar lyrics, they can bring a bit of familiarity into the centre and give their fears and problems a voice. During my time at the crisis centre, I learned that alongside fear, despair and uncertainty, there is



also a lot of hope and confidence in a crisis. I see a lot of potential in the children and young people and I hope that we can show them this and make them aware of it.

Paula Lorenz (21) from Leipzig/Germany



“

I thought to myself, what are my strengths? Everyone says I'm good at didactics.

Wolfgang Altfahrt (75) aus Wien, Wolfgang Altfahrt (75) from Vienna, pensioner, volunteer at the CONCORDIA LenZ day care centre in Vienna since September 2021.



Committed volunteers are also very welcome at our LenZ day centre in Vienna!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR DOING COMMUNITY SERVICE ABROAD AT CONCORDIA?



▶ [click here](#)

CONCORDIA is part of the WeltWegWeiser network, the service centre of Jugend Eine Welt for assignments abroad.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING DONATIONS AT CONCORDIA IN VIENNA?

Andrea Kosicek has been loyal to CONCORDIA for half a century. She is the longest-serving employee in the Vienna office and has been a member of the newly founded works council since 2023. As the keeper of our donation database, she combines precision and accuracy with heart and soul. She administrates the donorpapework that provide the funds of our projects and programmes.

The correct recording and administration of donations ensures the tracking and documentation of all our financial contributions.

Over the years, Andrea Kosicek has witnessed a number of development processes and database changes at CONCORDIA. In a quiet moment of retrospection, she gave us an insight into her eventful time at CONCORDIA.

I've been firmly in the saddle - or rather, in the office chair - at CONCORDIA since 1999.



Andrea Kosicek (left) together with colleagues Benjamin Heiligenbrunner and Irena Acimovic from the CONCORDIA Works Council in Vienna

“

I started my career at CONCORDIA and responsible for everything from payment slip mountains and “mattress missions“, to banking and flight bookings, and the poet of thank-you and request letters.

But just when I thought I was a jack-of-all-trades, I realised: I'm no octopus. Fortunately, reinforcements arrived. Boredom? Not a chance! Processing donations was like a treasure hunt. It wasn't just money that was donated during that time, additional treasures in the form of donations in kind suddenly landed in the garage. My family became a volunteer donation sorting team and we packed everything from anoraks to magic kits for the children in Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova.

The highlight of my “career”? A 40-tonne lorry that we filled to the brim. The neighbours in Hochstettergasse made eyes like snow globes. And then the mattresses - I could open a mattress shop now, I inspected so many before transporting them.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST

CONCORDIA Social Projects not only assumes responsibility for children, young people and families in need, but also for the donations entrusted to it.

## AUSTRIAN DONATION SEAL OF APPROVAL

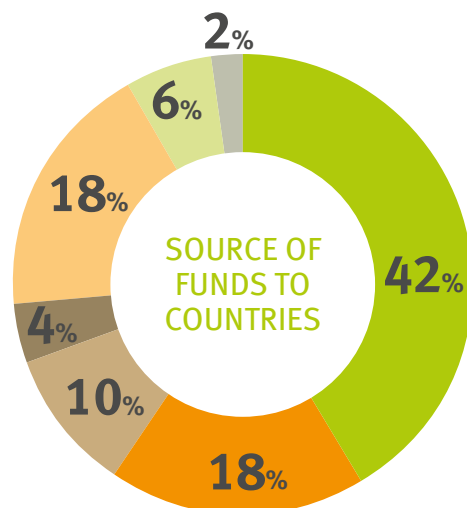
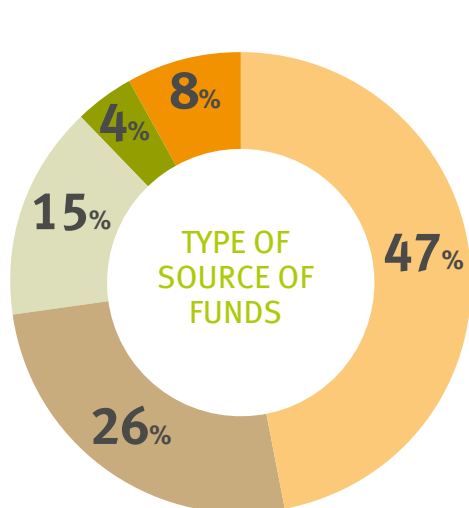
Since 4 December 2014, CONCORDIA Sozialprojekte Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung has been awarded the Austrian Donation Seal of Approval by the Chamber of Public Accountants and Tax Advisors every year.

## DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Donations to CONCORDIA Sozialprojekte Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung have been tax-deductible since 2009 in accordance with §4a Z3 and 4EStG (registration number SO 1295).

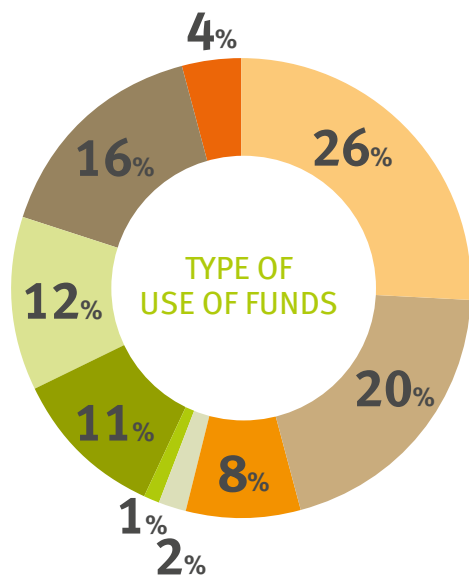
## SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS

The following diagrams provide a consolidated overview of the origin and use of the financial resources of CONCORDIA's Social Projects in the various country organisations (Bulgaria, Germany, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Switzerland and Austria) for 2023. The total volume of funds reached around EUR 20 million. By making targeted use of part of our reserves, we aim to secure our programmes for the long term. We do this by acquiring new supporters in order to ensure that our work continues to have maximum impact in the future.



- Individual giving
- Individual giving and foundations
- Leadership giving
- Reimbursements for services and Public subsidies
- Other income

- Austria
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Bulgaria
- Romania
- Republic of Moldova
- Kosovo



- Programmes Romania
- Programmes Republic of Moldova
- Programmes Bulgaria
- Programmes Kosovo
- Programmes Austria
- Programmes Support
- Fundraising and information work
- Acquiring new donors
- Administrative expenses



## IN DIALOGUE WITH STRONG PARTNERS FROM THE BUSINESS WORLD



### WELCOME TO THE PROUD PARTNER CLUB

**Schönherr Attorneys at Law** has been supporting CONCORDIA for many years, and has been a “Proud Partner” since 2023. To celebrate this proud partnership, CONCORDIA and Schönherr jointly organised an employee campaign at the EDU campus in Ploiești in November 2023. The Schönherr team worked diligently on this occasion, including designing various common rooms.



## PROUD PARTNER: STRABAG



**Alfred Watzl is a member of the Executive Board of STRABAG SE and a member of the CONCORDIA Advisory Board.**

STRABAG has been an important and dedicated partner of CONCORDIA for many years. The partnership has several dimensions including donations to our regular programmes and special humanitarian emergency aid campaigns, and enabling many infrastructure projects.

**You were recently in Romania and visited our projects there. What was your impression? What did you particularly remember?**

During my visits to CONCORDIA, I was able to see several projects for myself. In Bucharest, we visited Casa Iuda and the “Bread & Breakfast” hostel. The Casa Iuda transitional home offers young people who are at risk of poverty the opportunity to find a self-determined path into adult life in a supportive environment. The “Bread & Breakfast” hostel skilfully combines social support with economic success. Here, young people can not only learn a trade, but also contribute to the promotion of other CONCORDIA projects through their work.

In Ploiești, I visited the vocational school at the CONCORDIA Edu-Campus. There, I was particularly struck by the commitment of CONCORDIA employees and Country Director Diana Certan. This school offers young people the opportunity to develop independence, receive training and ac-

quire the skills they need for their professional future. It makes me happy to see the positive difference that projects like CONCORDIA's have on children and young people. This is best felt on the ground. That's why I'm happy to get involved.

### What do you expect from the partnership between STRABAG and CONCORDIA in terms of the realisation of children's rights?

Despite the current Convention on the Rights of the Child, many children's rights are still being violated. Globally and in Europe children live in a world of extreme contrasts.

Thanks to CONCORDIA's commitment and STRABAG's trust in its projects, important steps are being taken to provide a safe environment for children in need. A prerequisite for our successful cooperation are shared values such as solidarity, commitment, reliability and respect.

### Name projects that have been realised through cooperation with STRABAG?

STRABAG has supported CONCORDIA for many years and always welcomes the opportunity to co-finance initiatives that serve to improve the living environment for children and young people. Last year, we were able to co-finance the day care centre in Odobești/Romania with around 700,000 euros, and support ongoing CONCORDIA programmes in Moldova providing emergency winter aid to families most affected by extreme poverty in 2023/24.

STRABAG has provided the impetus to take advantage of a (newly introduced) special tax regulation in Romania, which enablesthe Romanian tax office to pass on 20% of

the income tax actually paid to beneficiaries - in this case CONCORDIA Romania. As part of our internal communication, our employees in Romania were informed about the possibility of diverting 3.5% of their income tax to CONCORDIA.

In addition, we have various charity campaigns in which our employees from Romania are involved. For example, gifts and warm clothes were prepared for children and donations were collected for 100 children from the community of Sibiu as part of the International Marathon in Sibiu/Romania. Herbert Schuster, Commercial Director of STRABAG Romania and his local management team are just as convinced as I am.

Marathon in Sibiu: left: Diana Certan: Director CONCORDIA Romania, centre: Ingrid Băltărețu: Communications Manager STRABAG Romania, right: Herbert Schuster: Commercial Director of STRABAG Romania

These small gestures of help also count for us. If necessary, we order pastries from the CONCORDIA bakery for our events to support the training programme.

### What is the added value of social commitment for STRABAG itself?

In line with our STRABAG Strategy 2030 "People, Planet, Progress", we want to be both profitable and create added social value for people. We want to assume social responsibility with every project and improve people's living environment. This also includes our social commitment in the poorer countries of Europe and the financial support of projects that give children and young people hope of a better future and sustainably improve social standards at system level.



Marathon in Sibiu:  
 li: Diana Certan: Director  
 CONCORDIA Romania,  
 centre: Ingrid Băltărețu:  
 Communications Manager  
 STRABAG Romania,  
 right: Herbert Schuster:  
 Commercial Managing Director  
 of STRABAG Romania





The reading by Simon Morzé and music by the Big Island Orchestra once again made the CONCORDIA Christmas Matinée 2023 a successful fundraising event.

The financial help we receive through fundraising events enables us to further our mission and strengthen our community.

## WE THANK OUR PROUD PARTNERS



First Proud Partner company  
in Switzerland:



For more information on how you can become socially involved with us as a company, please contact Elke Gelbmann on +43 676 317 51 30 or [elke.gelbmann@concordia.or.at](mailto:elke.gelbmann@concordia.or.at)

## WE SAY THANK YOU!

## THANK YOU! DANKE! MULȚUMİM! БЛАГОДАРИМ! FALEMINDERIT!

Monetary donations secure our activities. A large number of donations in kind and services are indispensable and valuable to us.

### OUR THANKS GO TO EVERY SINGLE SUPPORTER, SPONSOR AND COMPANY!

Active Citizens Fund Rumänien  
 ADA Austrian Development Agency  
 Adele Fitzal Privatstiftung  
 AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG  
 AMIF – Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds  
 AUMUND Foundation  
 Baden-Württemberg Stiftung gGmbH  
 Bank für Tirol und Vorarlberg AG  
 Beurer-Stiftung  
 Billa Bulgarien  
 Bosch Rumänien  
 BRVZ Ges.m.b.H  
 Bundeskanzleramt der Republik Österreich  
 Bundesministerium für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten der Republik Österreich  
 Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz Österreich  
 Cargill Bulgarien  
 Cents for help e.V.  
 CBA Kome  
 Ed. Züblin AG  
 Erne Fittings GmbH  
 ERSTE Stiftung  
 Europäische Kommission, Erasmus+  
 Finadvice AG  
 Fondation de France  
 Friedel und Walter Hoyer–Stiftung  
 Gerhard und Paul-Hermann Bauder Stiftung  
 GoodMills Group GmbH  
 Jesuiten weltweit  
 Jesuit Refugee Service  
 Kindermissionswerk ‚Die Sternsinger‘ e.V.  
 Kindernothilfe e.V.  
 KIWANIS CHILDREN’S FUND IN EUROPE  
 K. Ludwig GesmbH  
 KOME OOD Bulgarien  
 Land Vorarlberg  
 Leopold Gratz Stiftung  
 Lutz, Weber & Co. GmbH  
 Marie Eberth Stiftung  
 Medicor Foundation  
 Melina Unternehmensberatung  
 Merck Family Foundation gGmbH  
 Nachbar in Not  
 Nägele & Strubell, PWV  
 Parfümeriewarenvertriebs GmbH.  
 PERI SE  
 PEPCO Rumänien  
 Raiffeisen Holding NÖ-Wien  
 Raiffeisen Bank International  
 REMUS Innovations GmbH  
 Renovabis e.V.  
 Rompetrol – KMG International  
 Rotary Club Klagenfurt-Wörthersee  
 Rotary Club Linz Altstadt  
 Schoenherr Rechtsanwälte GmbH  
 SMK Versicherungsmakler AG  
 Stadt Sofia  
 Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg  
 Stiftung Licht und Wärme für Kinder - JaCaSa-Stiftung  
 Stiftung Oberstudienrat Mag. Walter Fritsch  
 STRABAG SE  
 Support Ulm e.V.  
 Tiroler Festspiele Erl  
 The Grand Offices & The Grand Avenue  
 Think Human Foundation  
 Trust for Social Achievement Foundation  
 UniCredit Bank  
 Unita Turism  
 United Way Rumänien  
 UNIQA Insurance Group AG  
 Ursula Zindel-Hilti Stiftung  
 VAP Vita Activa Privatstiftung  
 Verein „Ein Zuhause für Straßenkinder“, Sozialprojekt Stift Klosterneuburg  
 WE-FORM GmbH  
 Wienerclub Bulgarien  
 XXX Lutz KG



**OUR NETWORK AND ALLIANCE PARTNERS:**

ASOM - Academy for Social Management

Alliance for Non-Profit Organisations

CCI - Centre for International Cooperation

CIVIKOS Platform - Voluntary association of civil society organisations

German Fundraising Association Playful solutions

Die Möwe Child Protection Centres

Eurochild

FICE - International Federation of Educational Communities

FH Vorarlberg

FONSS Romania - Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for Social Services

Fundraising Association Austria

Global Responsibility - Working Group for Development and Humanitarian Aid (AGGV)

HEMAYAT - Care Centre for Torture and War Survivors

IFOA - Training Institute for Business Operators

Philanthropy Initiative

Cardinal König House

Coalition for Education Romania

Competence Centre for Nonprofit Organisations and Social Entrepreneurship

KOMF - Coalition of NPOs for the Protection of Children in Kosovo

National Network for Children Bulgaria

National Alliance for Social Responsibility Bulgaria

NGO Academy

NPO Institute (Association)

Children's Rights Network Austria

Austrian League for Child and Youth Health

Playful Solutions

RISE - Romanian Network for the Inclusion of Social Enterprises through Economic Activity

SDG Watch Austria

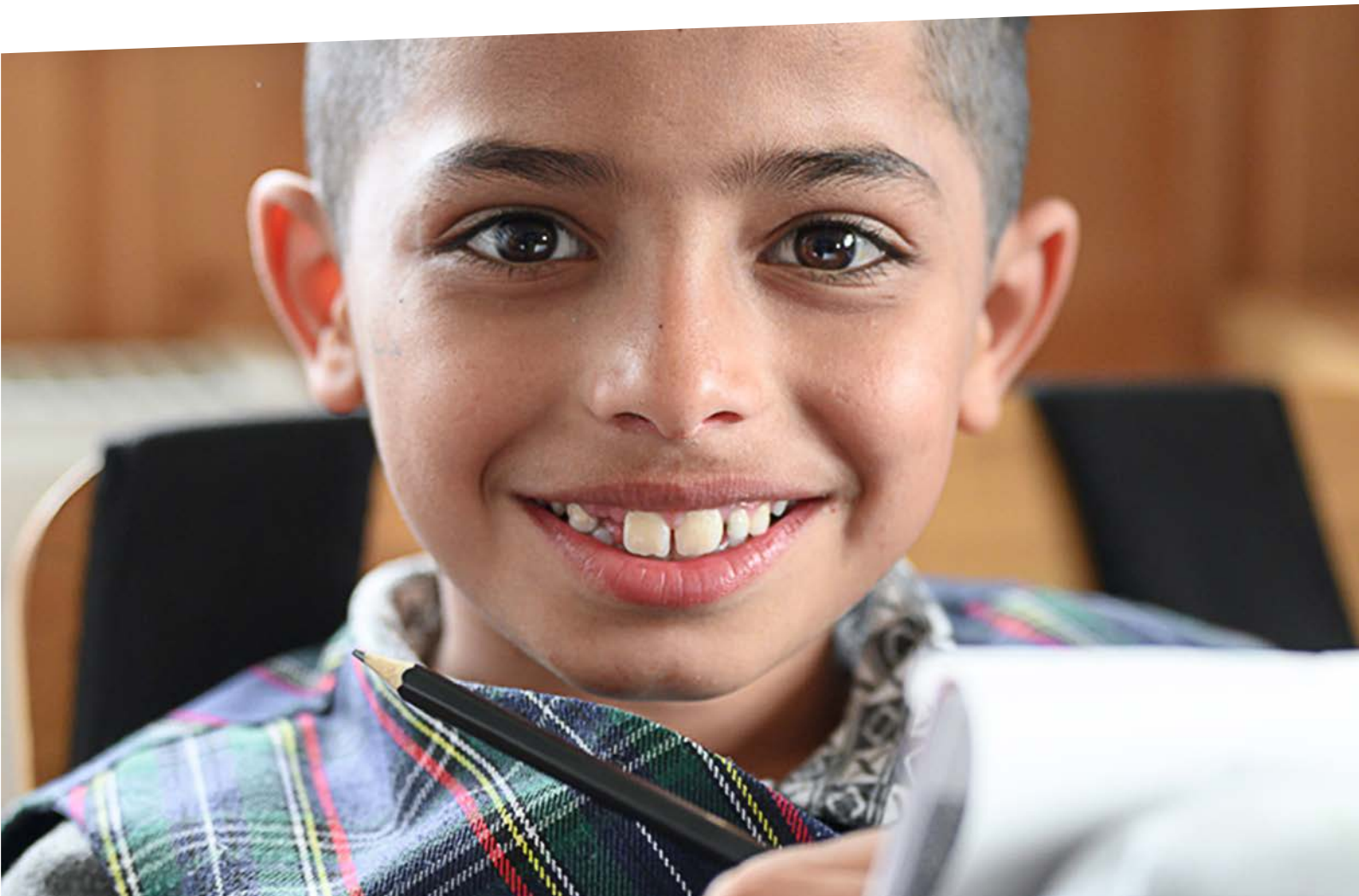
State Agency for Child Protection Bulgaria

Terre des hommes - Help for children in need worldwide

Association for charitable foundations

Vorarlberg Children's Village

WeltWegWeiser - Service centre for international volunteer assignments



## CONCORDIA SOCIAL PROJECTS

Non-profit foundation  
Hochstettergasse, 61020 Vienna  
T +43 1 212 81 49  
www.concordia-socialprojects.org  
Company register number  
FN 255080V, Commercial Court Vienna

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thomas Birtel (Chairman)  
Ulla Konrad  
Markus Inama SJ  
Bernhard Drumel (Executive director)  
Cornelia Burtscher (Deputy Executive director  
from 2024)

## ADVISORY BOARD

Werner Kerschbaum (Chairman)  
Erwin Hameseder (Deputy Chairman)  
Andreas Brandstetter  
Stephan Büttner (from 2024)  
Brigitte Ederer  
Andreas Gahleitner  
Heidi Glück  
Christian Konrad  
Markus Mühleisen (until the end of 2023)  
Josef Pröll  
Klaus Vähröder SJ  
Alfred Watzl (from 2024)  
Figen Webhofer  
Stephan Zöchling

## HONOURARY PRESIDENT

Hans Peter Haselsteiner

## INTERNATIONAL

CEO, responsible for distribution  
of funds

Bernhard Drumel

COO since 2024

Cornelia Burtscher

Programme Director and  
Child Safeguarding Officer

Martina Raytchinova

Fundraising Director, responsible for  
donation advertising

Rainer Stoiber

Director International development

Elena Matache

Responsible for data protection

Benjamin Heiligenbrunner

## IMPRINT

Published by: CONCORDIA Sozialprojekte Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung  
Hochstettergasse 6, 1020 Vienna; T +43 1 212 81 49; Fax +43 1 212 81 49-23,  
office@concordia.or.at; www.concordia-socialprojects.org  
Responsible for the content: Bernhard Drumel | Editing: Katharina Wagner  
Proofreading: Marion Brandner, Eva Okonofua  
Graphics: typothese | Printing: LDD Communication GmbH | Photos: Aniniya Boeva, Benjamin Kaufmann, Mariana  
Kosovan, Magdalena Laiminger, Thomas Seifert, Cosmin Sparcea, Zach-Kiesling | Illustrations: Eva Rudofsky

Country Director CONCORDIA ROMÂNIA  
Diana Certan

Country Directors CONCORDIA MOLDOVA  
Tatiana Balta, Viorica Matas

Country Directors CONCORDIA BULGARIA  
Stanimir Georgiev

Country Director CONCORDIA KOSOVO  
Mirela Lavric

Country Director CONCORDIA AUSTRIA  
Bernhard Drumel

Managing Director CONCORDIA GERMANY  
Galina Markschläger

Country Manager CONCORDIA SWITZERLAND  
Bernhard Drumel

## LOCATIONS

### CONCORDIA ROMÂNIA

Dr. Regimentului 20D, 013887 București  
romania@concordia.org.ro  
www.concordia.org.ro

### CONCORDIA MOLDOVA

Str. A. Corobceanu 13/1, 2004 Chișinău  
moldova@concordia.md  
www.concordia.md

### CONCORDIA BULGARIA

Ul. Pavlina Unufrieva N. 4, 1510 Sofia  
bulgaria@concordia.bg  
www.concordia.bg

### CONCORDIA KOSOVO

Rr. Lahuta e Malësisë p.n., 20000 Prizren  
office@concordia-kosovo.org  
www.concordia-kosovo.org

### CONCORDIA AUSTRIA

Hochstettergasse 6, 1020 Wien  
office@concordia.or.at  
www.concordia.or.at

### CONCORDIA GERMANY

Hohnerstraße 25, 70469 Stuttgart  
stiftung@concordia-sozialprojekte.de  
www.concordia-sozialprojekte.de

### CONCORDIA SWITZERLAND

Chollerstraße 4, 6302 Zug  
office@sozialprojekte-concordia.ch  
www.concordia-sozialprojekte.ch







CONCORDIA Social Projects  
Raiffeisenlandesbank NÖ/Wien  
IBAN: AT28 3200 0000 1318 7893, BIC: RLNWATWW  
[www.concordia-socialprojects.org](http://www.concordia-socialprojects.org)

