



Delegation of the European Commission
in Romania



Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția
Drepturilor Copilului

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Children think that parents are responsible for raising and caring for them

A qualitative research on the level of knowledge concerning children's rights, carried out among young parents and school children, showed that the latter know more about their rights than adults do. One of the main conclusions of the research was that while children believe parents to be responsible in the first place for raising and caring for them, adults think that state institutions bear the main responsibility.

This difference may be explained by the fact that parents get their information mostly from TV, while children learn about their rights at civic education classes in school.

The research is part of the Education Campaign "Children's Rights are Law!" carried out by the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights (NAPCR) within the Phare 2002 Programme. Its aim was to determine the level of knowledge concerning children's rights, as regulated by Law 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of children's rights. The research was conducted on a representative sample of parents aged 25-35 and school children aged 9-12 from urban and rural areas.

Compared to their parents, children know more about their rights. While the right to life, the right to education and the right to free medical assistance are considered to be the most important rights of the children by both parents and children, the latter mentioned in addition the right to «citizenship and identity», «the right to play» and «the right to food». Still, in most cases, the children participating in the research mistake their obligations towards their parents or their teachers for their rights (*"the right to do well in school"* or *"the right to obey parents"* were among the first rights they mentioned).

Although most adults are aware of the children's rights not to be mistreated, beaten, physically or verbally abused, they are all of the opinion that a "parent's slap" or raising the voice are part of parental education. Asked about the actions to be taken when child rights are infringed, adults know they have to *"notify authorities"*, but in most cases they avoid to become involved (*"it is none of my business"*).

The results of the research will be used to formulate the most appropriate messages for making children's rights known to the public through the "Children's Rights are Law!" Campaign.

The research was carried out in May-June 2005 by the research company ISRA Centre market Research.

For further information: Nicoleta Preda – Head of European Integration Service NAPCR, tel. 315.36.33

Drepturile copiilor sunt lege!

The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry for Public Finance.