



## Press Release

**03 March 2016**  
**Chisinau**

### **The European Union provides assistance for the creation of support and education services in 5 regions of the country**

An EU-funded project that will facilitate the access of children with special needs during their first years of life to community support and education services is launched 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, in Chisinau. The project life is three years, 2016-2018, and it will be implemented in five regions of the country: Cahul, Calarasi, Falesti, Nisporeni, and Ungheni. A Memorandum of collaboration was signed during the event, between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, and the public association “Partnerships for Every Child” (P4EC), setting the intention of mutual support for the project implementation.

The general objective of the project is to provide children with special needs, aged 0-7, and their families, with access to support programs developed under the project. The programs will be focused on capacity-building of the parents and professionals, as well as on providing this category of children with the best opportunities of their potential development in the first years of life.

At the event inauguration, Elena Cernei, Deputy Minister of Education, mentioned: “By this project we try to support once again a very important and sensitive segment of education and of the society in general, such as inclusive education, specifically, of children with special educational needs”.

Present at the event, Minister of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Stela Grigoras, said: “We are increasingly aware of the importance of supporting the child in the very first years of life, enabling them to have a secure and healthy life start. For this, the family must have the necessary support in the right time, ensuring its access to services such as parenting skills development, support in raising a child with special needs, provided by both the professionals and the entire community”.

Wicher Slagter, Head of Political and Economic Section of the European Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, said: “Child’s rights is an important area in the relations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. That is why we support development programs in the area of rights of children who



This programme is implemented by  
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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

are among the most vulnerable categories in Moldova. Thus, together with our partners, we will provide necessary protection to children with special needs”.

Daniela Mamaliga, Director of P4EC, reiterated: „We are very glad to have obtained the support of the EU in this sector – that we think is a priority at the moment. We hope that by the end of this project, families in the Republic of Moldova that have children with special needs aged under 7, are supported by relevant actors and institutions, and have access to quality education and support services. This will help them to ensure harmonious development of their children in the very first years of life”.

The support and education programs that will be developed within the project include:

- **Therapeutic Interactive Music Making** – a program of communication through music;
- **Portage** – home care and education support service for families with children who have special needs;
- **Mellow Parenting** – course of therapy for parental skills development and strengthening of relations between parents and children, based on theory of attachment.

The project will also develop a national-level communication program – **Makaton** – involving the use of signs and symbols to help people communicate. It will be integrated as a work tool for all stakeholders involved in the education of children with speech and communication difficulties.

The activities of this project will contribute to the implementation of the National Inclusive Education Development Program in 2011 – 2020 and the Child and Family Protection Strategy for 2014-2020, by building the capacities of central and local public authorities in the program implementation. The positive practices gained within this project will be disseminated in other 6 regions of the country and will then be integrated in the national education and social protection system.

The Project “Improving access of children with special needs to community support and education services within the first years of life” will be implemented by the NGO “Partnerships for Every Child”, in collaboration with the consortium consisting of Mellow Parenting and HealthProm Organizations from the United Kingdom of Great Britain, with the support of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Education, and local public authorities of the five project pilot regions.

The project with total value of 680,000 EURO is funded by the European Union.

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