

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FROM ROMANIA AND HUNEDOARA COUNTY IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMICAL CONTEXT OF POST-COMMUNIST TRANSITION PERIOD (2000-2009)

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ABSTRACT: *In the following, we make a general overview on social services provided by governmental and social institutions of NGOs in Romania and Hunedoara county in post-communist transition (2000-2009 period), before socio-economic crisis in Romania when the general trend was the development of social services. In this analyze used the following research methods: analysis documents, statistical analysis and comparative analysis.*

KEY WORDS: *social services; social-economic development.*

JEL CLASSIFICATION: *O10; Z10.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Before 2010, in response to changing needs and societal challenges, social services are in the process of expanding being activated *services cantered on individual needs* focusing on: rehabilitation, adult education or childcare and *services focused on the collective needs*, while new social risks (aging population, implications of population mobility, changes in family structures, etc.), current created a new orientation and other social services (European Commission, 2009, p.20).

In view of Commission of the European Communities in 2008, at European level, there were recent increases in the diversity of services reflecting different orientations of the economy and society as a result of aging populations, climate change gender roles and family structures, technological change and globalization.

In Romania, the need for social services in the context of socio-economic changes after the post-December 1989 period, and the legislative context of developing

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national social protection system, becoming more elaborate and specialized, has generated an expansion of social services at national regional or local level. (Mărginean, 2003, p.10).

Social services are defined by Halloran and Calderon as "services provided directly to citizens to answer their needs in terms of employment, health, housing, education, social security and care, social services are generally covered and financed by the authorities at national, regional or local, but may be provided by public or private sector" (*Opera quoted*, 2005, p.12), and Dictionary of Sociology it defines as "all services that a community will provide total or partial, for all members or for segments particular showing a growing need for such services.

In this sense, in their scope included and services offered by local communities or by associations to their members". Also in Business Dictionary social services are defined as "Benefits and facilities such as education, food subsidies, health care, and subsidized housing provided by a government to improve the life and living conditions of the children, disabled, the elderly, and the poor in the national community" (www.businessdictionary.com/definition/social-services.html).

In Romania Government Ordinance 68/2003 stipulates that social services as a set of measures and actions addressing the needs of the population are offered by service providers and this providers may be: *public* social services at county and local levels, other public services specialist at the county level or local public institutions have established departments for social assistance or *private*: associations and foundations, religious and other forms of organized civil society, individuals authorized in the law, subsidiaries and branches of international associations and foundations recognized in accordance with applicable laws, international organizations profile (11, GO 68/2003).

2. EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN ROMANIA

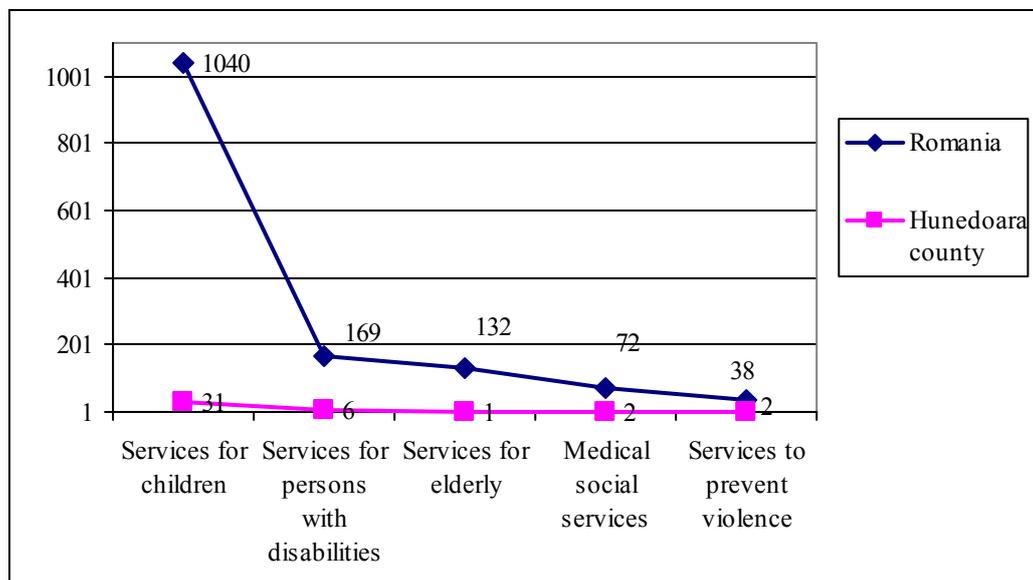
In the following we make a general view for social services provided by governmental and social institutions of NGOs in Romania in post-communist transition. In this analyze used the following research methods: analysis documents, statistical analysis and comparative analysis.

Concerning the development of social services in Romania with regard to indicators of analysis aimed at *existing social services number* and *category of beneficiaries served*, according to statistics of the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, in 2005 were highlighted in reports to the Ministry, a number of 1451 public welfare establishments of which 71.67% had social services for children, followed by social services for people with disabilities at a rate of 11.65%, or social services for older people at a rate of 9, 10%, or medical and social support services (4.96%), or violence prevention services (2.62%). Of the 1451 existing national social services, the same year, 2.89% were represented by social services functional in Hunedoara County.

From the perspective of the share of social services for children there is a balanced report on the national level (71.67%) and at the county level (73.81%), the share of services for people with disabilities are less differentiated at the national level

is lower (11.65%), compared with share of 14.29% at the county level, the comparative situation of social services at national and county level Hunedoara in the number of which are illustrated in Figure 1.

If 2005 were highlighted in 1451 social services throughout Romania, in 2006 their number increased by 76.22%, leading to the 2557 national social services. Compared with 2005, 2006 saw a significant increase in social services for children with 83.37% and with a fairly high percentage of 32.54% increased social services for people with special needs (Source: NIS 2006, ANPH 2007, ANPDC 2009, MMFPS 2008). Figure 2 shows the comparative dynamics of development of social services in Romania in 2005-2006.



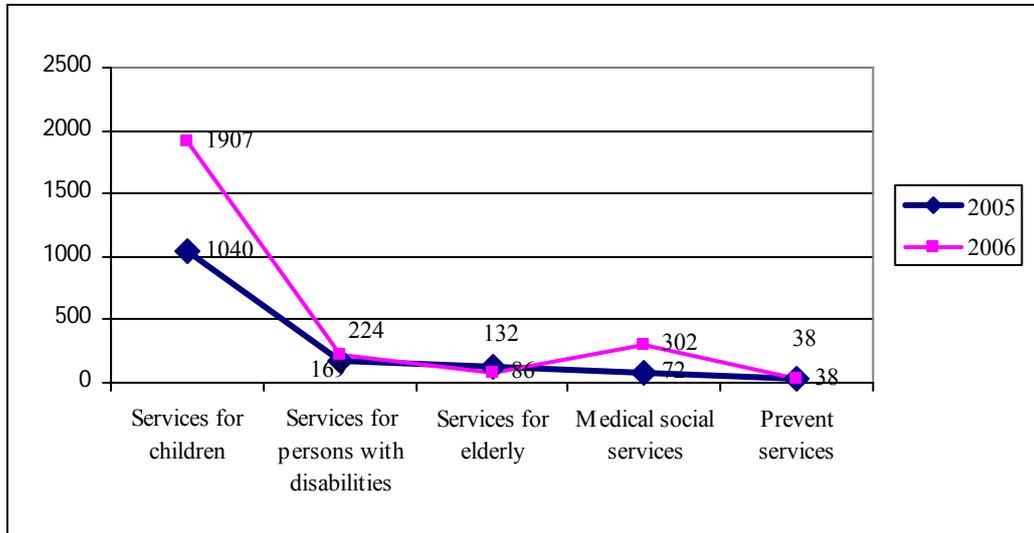
Source: MMSSF, 2005; FDSC, 2007; INS, 2006

Figure 1. Comparative situation between the number of social services in Romania, and Hunedoara County, 2005

Given the territorial distribution indicator of public and private providers of social services in Romania, all in the year 2006 in most counties of the country the number of accredited private providers (association or foundation), it exceeded that of the public, except few other counties: Braila, Caras Severin, Calarasi, Galati, Gorj, Mehedinti and Teleorman. In Hunedoara county - the level of 2006 - were identified 18 social service providers accredited non-government segment and 1 public provider.

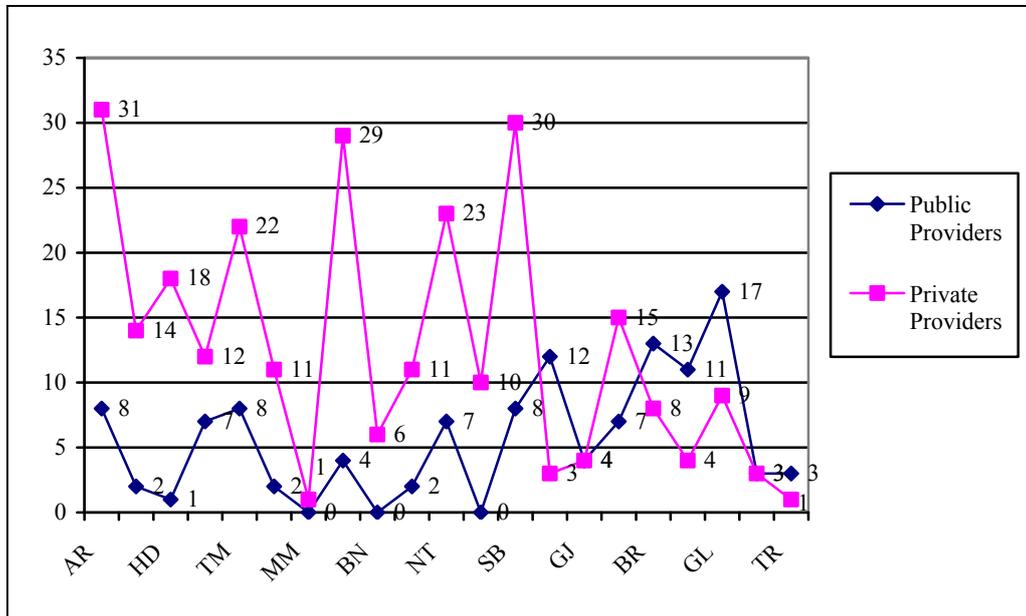
Figure 3 illustrates the variety of territorial distribution of public and private services in some of the counties in Romania. (Source FDSC, 2007). Regarding the analysis of social services in Romania in relation to the indicator category concerns existing *public and private social services*, the database of the National Authority for Protection of Child Rights, reveals that the number of public placement centres (family

apartments or family houses) increased gradually, registering a significant increase in this category of services with 211.31% higher in 2009 than in 2000.



Source: INS 2006, ANPH 2007, ANPDC 2009, MMFPS 2008)

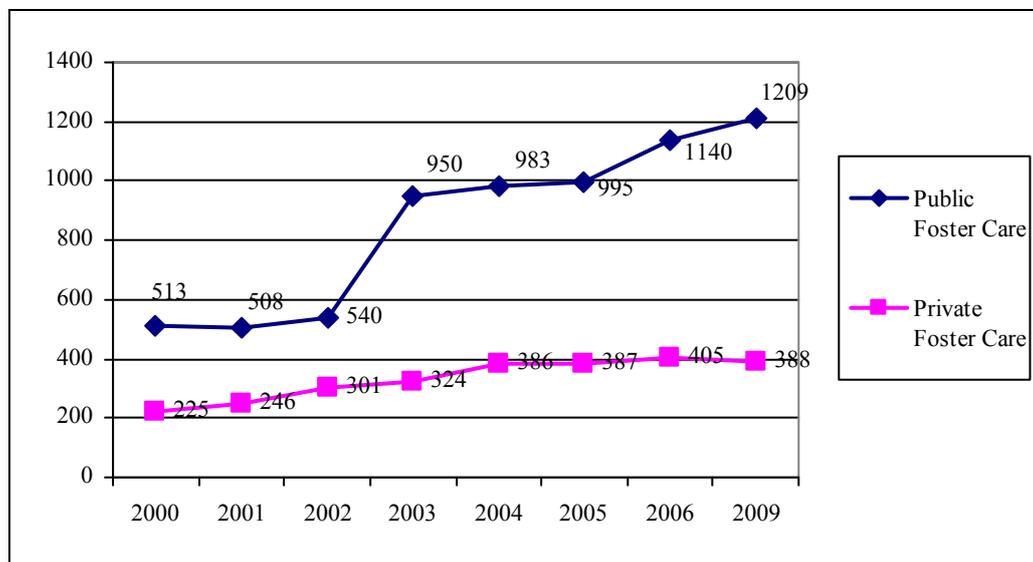
Figure 2. Comparative dynamics of development of social services in Romania in 2005-2006 (number services)



Source: FDSC, 2007

Figure 3. Territorial distribution of public and private providers of social services in Romania in 2006 (number provided)

Regarding the dynamic evolution of private placement centres (family apartments or family houses), in Romania recorded an upward dynamic to them in 2000-2006, the number of centres this time of increasing private centres by 80% in 2006 compared to 2005 and during the years 2006 to 2009 their dynamics was descendent, the number of this category of services falling by 4.19%, while during the same period (2006-2009) number of centres of public investment increased by 6.05%. At national level, on March 31, 2009, the number of public placement centres was 3.12 times higher than the number of private placement centres, increased compared to May 2006 when the share was 2.81 times higher compared private placement centres. This comparative situation, which reflects the evolution of social services by public or private category, is shown in Figure 4.



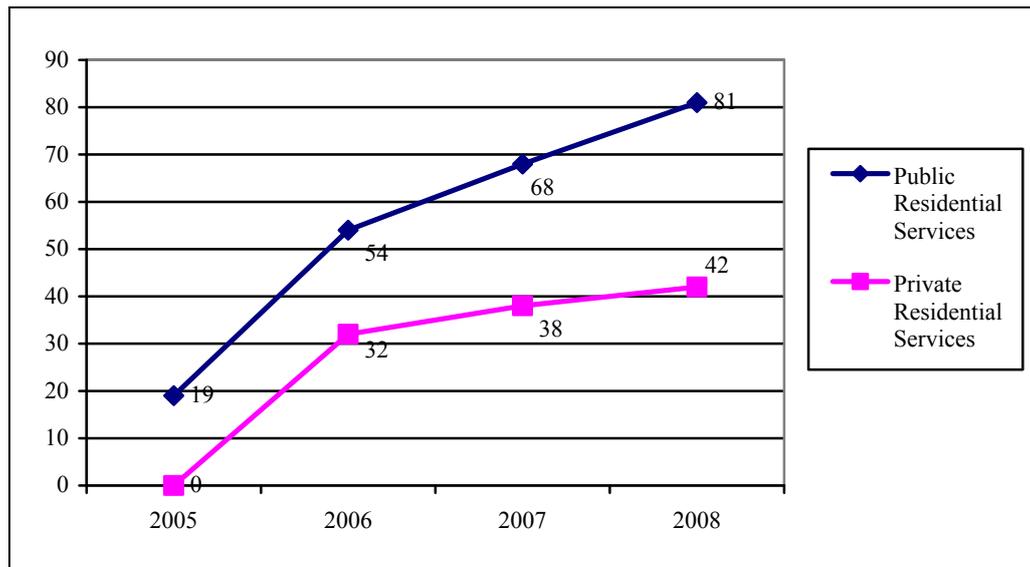
Source: ANPDC, 2000-2009

Figure 4. Development public and private placement centres (family-style apartments and family houses) in Romania during 2000-2009 (number services)

For the category of public and private social canteens in Romania, according to analysis of the database of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection in 2008, there were 177 functioning social service canteen that total 70.67% were public service canteen and 29,38% were private social canteen services, so in this case the percentage of public social canteens is much higher than the percentage of private social canteens.

On the dynamics of public and private residential services for older people in Romania there is an upward dynamic in both cases during 2005–2008, From the databases of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities (2006) and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection (2008) shows a rise in the number of public residential services to a number of 19 public service in 2006 to a total of 81 public service in 2008, which means an increase of 4 times higher during this period of

time, but on the other hand, if we compare the number of residential services for older public with the number of public placement centres for children, the number of residential public services for the elderly is 21.11 times lower than the number of public placement centres. A similar situation is highlighted and private residential services in the period 2006-2008, their number increasing by 31.25%. Dynamics of residential services for the elderly is illustrated in Figure 5.



Source: MMFES, 2007; MMFPS, 2008

Figure 5. The dynamic development of public and private residential services for older people in Romania, in 2005-2008 (number services)

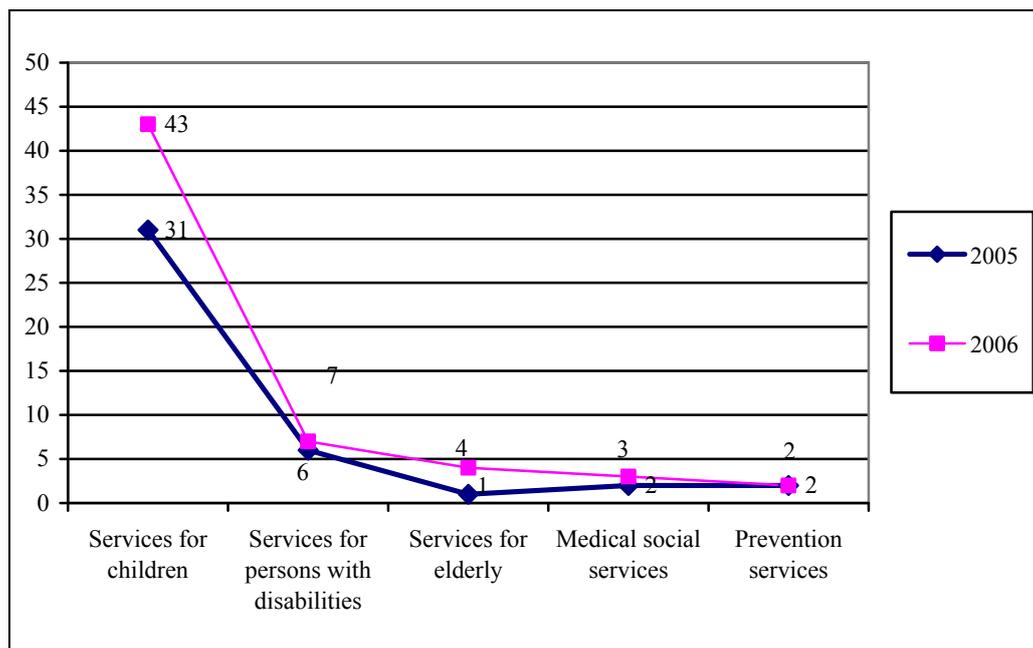
3. EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE HUNEDOARA COUNTY

In the context of favourable development of social services at national level also is framed Hunedoara County (Western Region of Romania). According to the analysis of documents provided by social institutions ability in the social assistance field, in Hunedoara county social services have been developed and proposed to meet the diverse needs of the population.

Concerning the development of social services in Hunedoara, using the indicators aimed at analysis of *existing social services* and *category of beneficiaries* from the analysis of documents provided by governmental institutions (MMSSF 2006-2008, MMFPS 2008, DGASPC, Hunedoara County Council), shows that the total number of social services increased from 42 existing services in 2005 with 37.21% in 2006. If one takes into account that the total number of social services in Romania in 2006 was 2557 units it is found that Hunedoara County had a 2.31% share of total social services in Romania.

Regarding the indicators aimed *category of beneficiaries* served by social services in Hunedoara County, shows the existence of social services for children,

adults at risk, people with special needs and older people. The chart 6 is synthesized dynamic development Hunedoara county social services during 2005 to 2006 in relation to the category of beneficiaries served by those services, which can be seen particularly an increase in social services for children with 38.71% in 2006 compared to 2005, and also can see a dynamic upward social services for older people four times higher than in the general stagnation in 2005 and other services. (Source: DGASPC Hunedoara 2006 and MMSSF 2006).



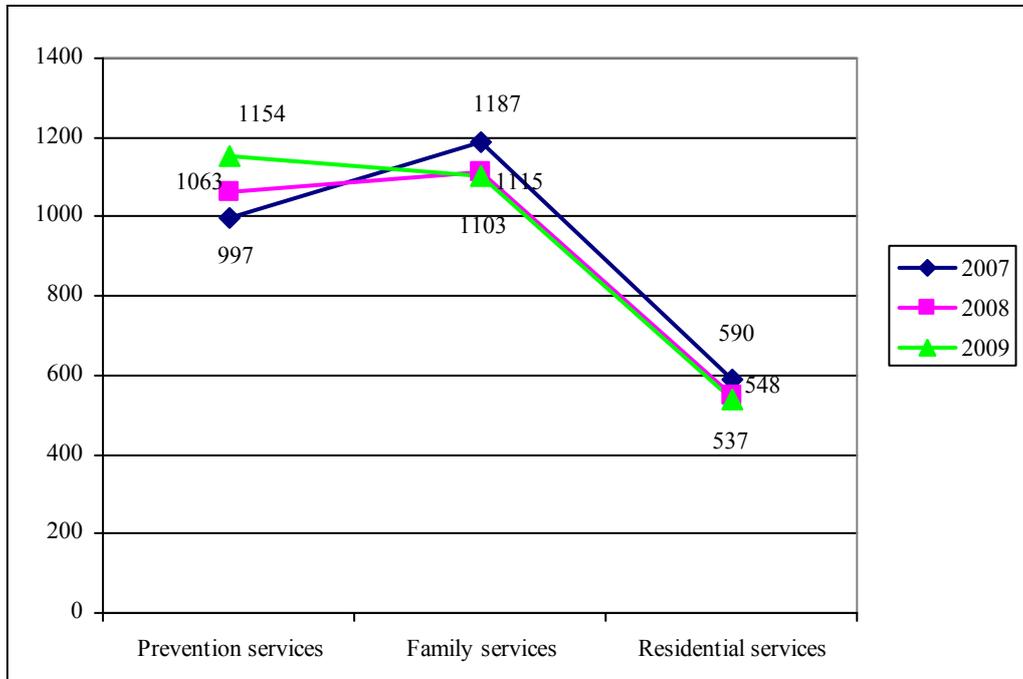
Source: DGASPC Hunedoara 2006, MMSSF 2006

Figure 6. Dynamics of social services in Hunedoara County in relation to the category of beneficiaries served, in 2005-2006 (number services)

Reported the total number of children beneficiaries of special protection services in Romania of 71,274 children, it is found that the largest share of such services charge a family services serving 64,76% of all vulnerable children, followed by residential services (35.24%). Services serving the family of Hunedoara County represent 1.67% of all vulnerable children in Romania and residential social services providing special protection to 0.83% of all children at risk in Romania. Figure 7 illustrates the dynamics of the number of beneficiaries served than in services to prevent separation of children from parents, family services and residential services, in Hunedoara County in the period 2007-2009.

In social services designed to protect adults in difficulty or in situations of risk to the Hunedoara County there is not so active as a dynamic child protection. Thus, under the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Hunedoara, in addition to adult social services departments: residential services, intervention in managing issues of adult special protection units for persons with disabilities, or anti-

poverty section, there are following types of social services for adult category: care centres and support centres, integration occupational therapy, housing protected and recovery centre.



Source: MMSSF 2008, MMFPS 2009; DGASPC Hunedoara 2009

Figure 7. Dynamics of the number of beneficiaries served in services for children in Hunedoara County in the period 2007-2009

4. CONCLUSIONS

Under a common European social policy which recognizes the important role of social services as key actors in the partnership for the welfare population, in promoting equality and social inclusion of all citizens of European Member States, Romania, has been a visible development within public or private social services at national, regional or local level both pre-accession period and after accession to the European Union.

European Documentation operative (New Social Agenda) has left its mark on the legal situation in Romania, good time's development of quality social services. In this context it is registered an ascendant dynamic in the number of accredited public and private providers of social services, especially from 2005 until now, both at national level, at Hunedoara County.

In the context of the reform of social protection of children in Romania was faster than in other areas of social assistance targeted other population groups, at national level social protection services for children in difficulty are most spread in

comparison with other social services for persons with disabilities, elderly, vulnerable people at risk or crisis. A clear trend at national level have been social services for special protection to children who have grown twice more in 2009 compared with 2000, and social services to prevent the separation parents of children who had a fivefold increase since 2000. But the situation of national social services provided to other categories of adults, even though progress has been made in terms of diversifying the type of services offered or the number of units developed, situation of these services is undersized in relation to social services for child protection.

Synthesizing information analysis from this paper, shows that in the period 2002-2009 social services from Hunedoara county had an active dynamic development in the field of diversified social services for children, observing that there are following types of social services provided for vulnerable children: *family services* (placement at AMP - maternal professional placement, or at other persons or families), *residential services* (foster care, family-type apartments), *services to prevent the separation of parents* (daycares , maternal centres) and *other types of services*: reception centres for urgent situation, specialized centres for children with disabilities. Regarding *social services to protect adults in difficulty or in risk situation*, in Hunedoara County there is a dynamic not as active as in child protection.

In relation to diversity and complexity of social problems in the area, the social services in the Hunedoara County, as measures of social response to the needs of vulnerable groups, are not enough for all needs.

According to the public authorities' opinion, it is necessary in Romania and Hunedoara county - in addition to existing services - creating social structures for prevention and social protection: residential care centres for the elderly - having regard to population aging, home care services for elderly; services advice and support for women abused and mistreated, creating of social housing for disadvantaged groups, development of community services, development of specialized services in the protection of persons with disabilities and child protection.

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