

CHILDREN'S REPORT

for Romania's Voluntary National Review

on the Sustainable Development Goals



The voice of the
children from
Romania

on the
implementation
of the SDGs

with a focus on the
important aspects
for their lives.

MAY 2023

This report is the voice of the children from Romania
about the implementation of the
Sustainable Development Goals in our country.

We are the voice
of over 55,000
children in our
country!





What do children from Romania say about the following Sustainable Development Goals:



SDG 1. No poverty



- We want the transportation from home to school and back to be free of charge for all students (currently, students pay and they are reimbursed later), irrespective of the means of transportation and of travelling from one locality to another. We want enough means of transportation to be made available and their schedule to be correlated with our programme at school, such as not to wait for a long time in the bus stops when it is cold outside, raining, or run to catch the bus.
- We call to eliminate the differences between the amounts paid for scholarships to students from different schools in Romania by applying the same criteria. The merit scholarships should be paid for the whole school year (without any deductions during the short holidays). We would like to be informed about how the scholarships are calculated, the regular payment of scholarships to be respected and the funds allocated for students' scholarships not to be used any longer for other purposes.



SDG 1. No poverty

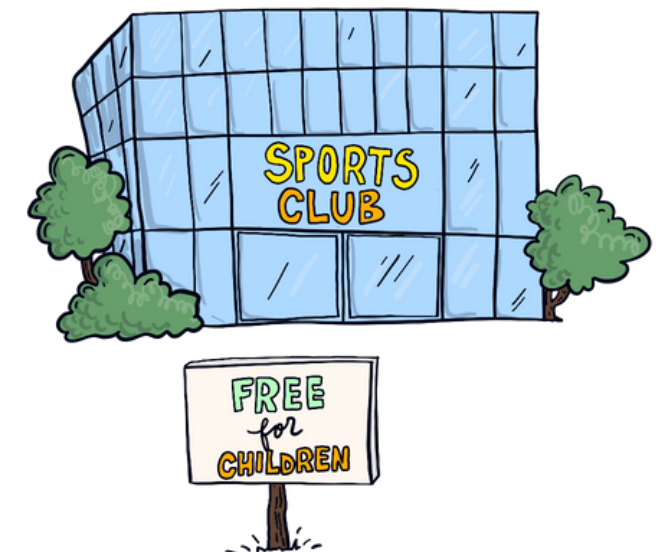
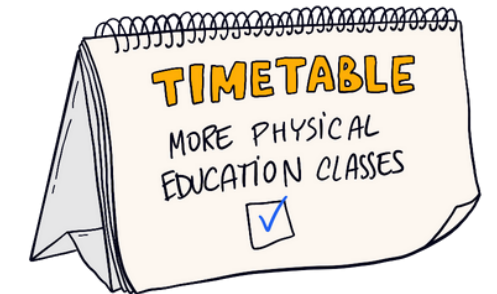


- We want that every student receives different types of support in order to prevent or reduce school drop-out: free school supplies, increased child allowance, hygiene products or financial support for the families of children in difficult circumstances. We would like to have a legislation to support children from vulnerable communities. We want that children who dropped-out of school for different reasons to be supported in order to return in the education system.
- We need financial education classes in schools because we feel the need to find out how to save money, how to manage our budget or how to generate new incomes from our hobbies!

SDG 3. Good health and well-being



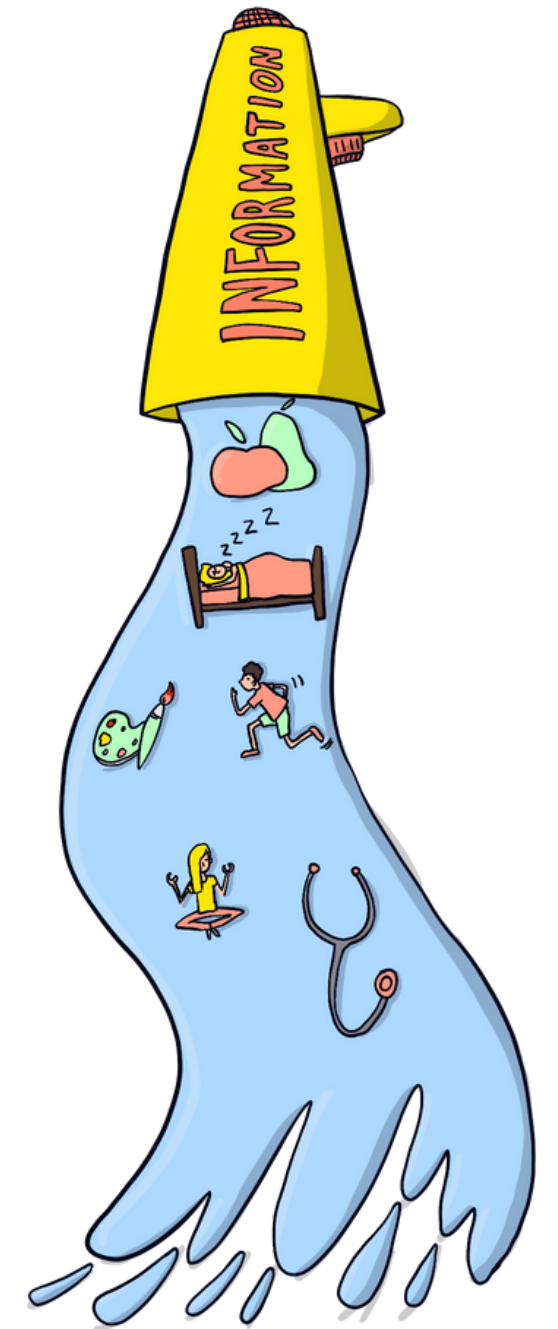
- We call for the inclusion of health education in the curriculum, development of health-related extracurricular activities, and prevention of risky behaviors. Sexual education classes are needed to prevent the unwanted pregnancies at the adolescent girls that often lead to school drop-out.
- We also want to see that physical activity is promoted among children and they have free access to sports facilities. Furthermore, we want school gyms to be properly equipped and have more physical education classes in schools.
- Every child should have access to quality health care services, including in school-based medical basic services. These must be properly equipped and have competent health professionals available during school hours.



SDG 3. Good health and well-being



- We need support with mental health issues, we want to be able to reach out for help and not face stigma. We need adults, teachers, decision makers to no longer consider mental health problems as uncommon and see them as obstacles that every child may face.
- We want to see that addiction risks (alcohol, tobacco, drug) are addressed among children. We want to stop being exposed to materials that promote the use of illegal substances and instead be targeted by information campaigns that warn us about their harmful effects.



SDG 4. Quality education

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



- We want students to benefit from civic education focusing on informing them about democratic principles, children's rights, the functioning of public institutions and the main organizations working in the fields of children's rights and youth rights.
- We want to gradually phase out high-stakes students' assessments in schools and make the transition to cross-subject assessments. We also think that it would be useful to consult with us in advance when choosing the number of optional subjects on new and attractive topics, including when adding new optional subjects. Furthermore, we would like to have no pressure concerning grades for optional subjects, as their purpose is to improve our knowledge in areas we are passionate about.





SDG 4. Quality education

- We want a curriculum that also promotes volunteering and other opportunities for children to get involved so that we can fully develop our personalities. It is important for schools to support voluntary and extracurricular activities and integrate them in the education system.
- We need spaces for recreational activities both in and out of school. We want appropriate funding for children's clubs and sports facilities.
- We want schools to respond to our needs so that we don't have to spend our free time taking private lessons. We want teaching and evaluation methods that are based on practical activities, experiments, projects, and debates, encouraging us to express our opinions freely and acquire practical skills.



SDG 5. Gender equality

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



- We no longer want schools to promote gender stereotypes and we want to be treated equally. Discrimination doesn't only occur among students; some teachers have this type of behavior as well.
- We want us, the children, to be able to express ourselves freely, safely and unconstrained by gender stereotypes that are harmful.
- We want girls in Romania to no longer have to take to the streets demanding that their rights be respected, to feel safe when they walk alone on the streets and to be believed when they report sexual abuse.



SDG 10. Reduced inequalities

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



- As children from ethnic minorities (e.g. Roma children) or of other nationalities living in Romania, we do not feel safe enough to practice our cultural customs, to speak our native language and to wear our traditional clothing because of the bullying and discrimination we face.
- If we have disabilities, speaking up exposes us to bullying. We are therefore unable to fully exercise this right as we fear for our own safety.

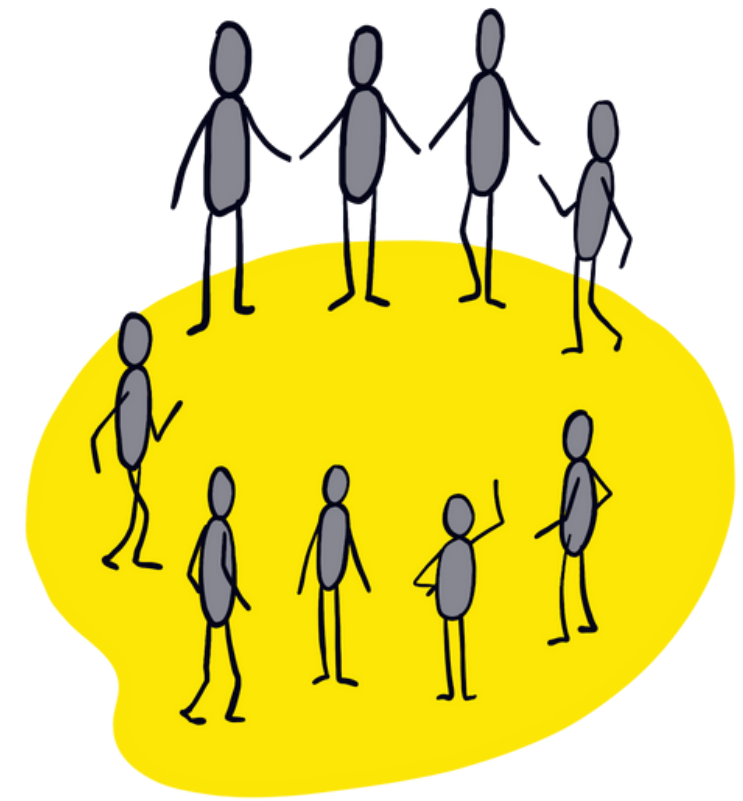
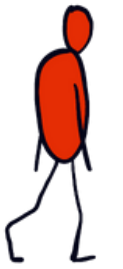


SDG 10. Reduced inequalities

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



- We would like to no longer see public authorities perpetuate aggressive and discriminatory behaviors towards children with disabilities, Roma children or children from other ethnic groups. We want legal action to be taken against those who display such behaviors. As long as public entities perpetuate such behaviors, society will not change.
- We want to support the refugee children to feel safe in Romania and to be less worried about their future. It is important they continue education, do not drop-out of school, to receive Romanian language and psychological support and benefit from leisure time activities together with the Romanian children.



SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities



- It is needed to adapt the public lightening system to our routes to and from the school, as well as to the time when we travel in order to be safe in the communities where we live.
- We should be safe at the playgrounds by having them supervised by specialized personnel. We consider it is important that these spaces used by all members of the community, not only by children, to be safe, free of violence, incidents or accidents.
- We do believe that educating the communities on selective waist collection is important and necessary because a clean space (playgrounds, streets and other public spaces) represents a benefit for all communities, both for children and adults.

SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities

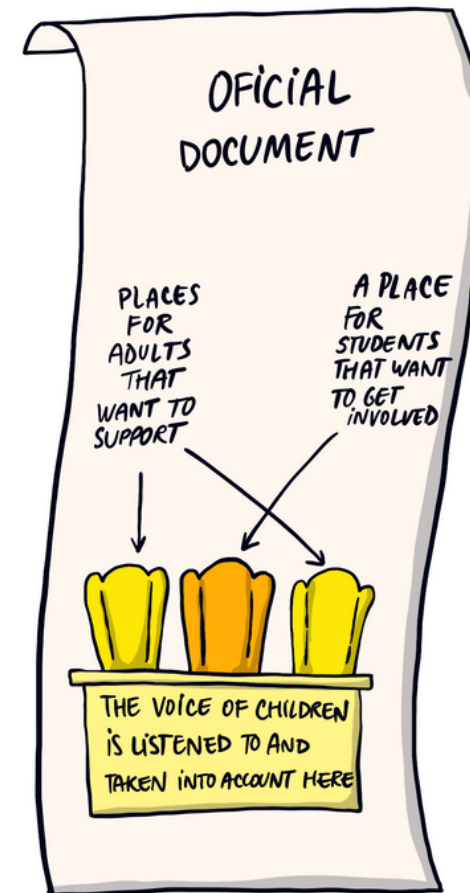


- It is needed that the infrastructure in our cities and communities to correspond to the needs of the persons with disabilities: playgrounds should have adapted equipment, provide the access elements in all public spaces (ramps, elevators, stairs climbing systems, etc.), facilitate the access to public transportation for the persons with disabilities (making accessible the systems to get on and off the buses and the bus stops).
- We need communities to withstand earthquakes and climate change. Adequate plans should be elaborated as a response to any climate crises/natural disasters and to have in view the protection of vulnerable groups. In this way we are going to succeed in having really sustainable cities and communities.
- We request the authorities to reduce pollution in urban and rural communities in order to prevent certain health conditions among children. Priority should be given to air quality, providing access to clean water and an uncontaminated soil.

SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities



- We underline the importance of digitalization of the cities and communities we are part of and we would like to propose the development of public services through digitalization with a view to reach a higher degree of accessibility and to cope with future challenges.
- We would like to have more green spaces in every community to alleviate the effects of urbanization and pollution that are important places for carrying out activities that bring together the community children are part of.
- We consider that for having sustainable cities and communities it is important that all the elements of the patrimony (museums, historical monuments, natural monuments) irrespective of their type to be protected because they are an interest and educational factor for children.
- We would like that children's voices to be really heard and taken into consideration by organizing separate public debates with children related to their needs and interests as inhabitants of their communities.





SDG 13. Climate action

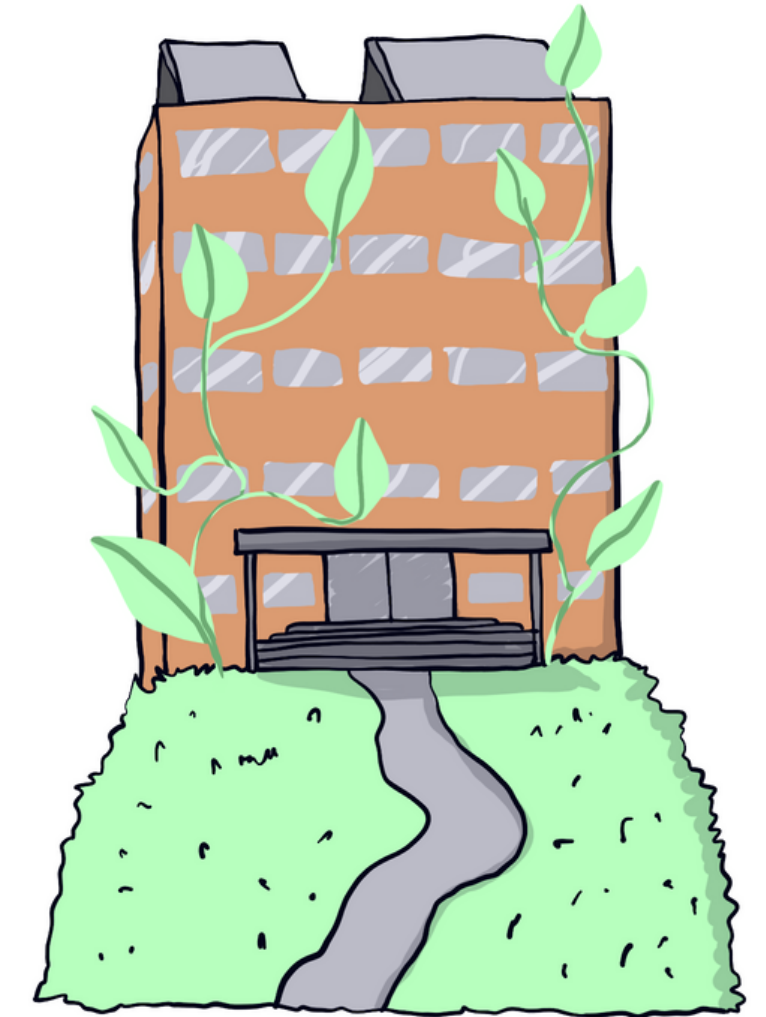
- We want public authorities to stop prioritizing economic interests at the expense of our planet and fulfil the international obligations they have undertaken, providing hard evidence to children, and seeking their opinion. Climate change has both short-term and long-term effects on our lives.
- **Urgent action** is needed. Decision-makers need to take action to prevent and reduce pollution and to identify alternative solutions to power sources, fuel, and transportation.





SDG 13. Climate action

- We want to see a change in decision-makers' approach to environmental issues, leading by example and supporting the projects that students have already been implementing.
- We would like the authorities to make all the institutions working with and for children more environmentally friendly and educate us accordingly, so that we can contribute to solving environmental problems.



This is a manifesto [video](#) where children expressed their opinions in the process of drafting *Children's Report on the implementation of the Child Rights Convention in Romania, March 2023.*





This is an initiative coordinated by
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and supported by:

- ANAID
- Children's Local Councils in Bacău, Braşov, Moineşti municipalities and Coloneşti and Corbasca communes
 - Constanta Students' Association
- Federation of the Non-Governmental Organisations for Child (FONPC)
 - FITT Timisoara
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS România)
 - National Students' Council
 - Romanian Angel Appeal
 - Romanian Children's Board
 - Save the Children Romania