

European Master in Children's Rights

Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University runs this program since 2008, when the Master in Children Rights was accredited by the Ministry of Education. It is hosted by The Department of Social Work, that was evaluated in 2011 as the best Romanian Social Work Training institution. It is directed by Professor Dr. Maria Roth, who is one of the founders of high education in the field of Social Work, in Romania. Annually it admits 15-20 master students, offering specialization to graduates in social work, psychology, sociology, law, and other bachelor programs and post-gradual training for practitioners in the field of child protection, education, children rights, and public administration. Participating students are required and encouraged to participate in practical and voluntary activities to promote children's rights. They are closely supervised both in their studies and their practical activities, and given opportunities to exchange ideas and learn from each other. For graduation, students develop their own research and write a thesis in the area of children's rights.

The director of the program, Professor Maria Roth, has published several books and articles in the area of children's rights, child well-being, prevention of violence in schools and families, and the changes in the Romanian child welfare system. Her PhD is in psychology (early intervention) and has a rich practical experience working with children in different settings. She is a member of the Eurochild's support committee working on participation of children and youth. Her research area is children's rights and adverse childhood experiences, and she developed and directs numerous research projects in child welfare; children, violence and its prevention, domestic violence, program and service evaluation; and social exclusion.

All teaching staff participating in the program are participating in research related to child protection and children's rights: lecturer Mihai Iovu, PhD, with Fulbright experience in Rutgers University, USA, with research and publications in the area of Child Abuse and Neglect, lecturer Paul Haragus, PhD., with research in the area of youth sociology, professor Livia Popescu, PhD., working in the area of Child and Family Policy, researcher Luminita Dumanescu, PhD, specialist of the history of childhood, lecturer Dan Rusu, PhD., and associate professor Cristina Baciu, working in the area of disability and education, lecturer Maria Pantea, PhD, specialist in the area of child labour as well as associate professor Oana Benga, PhD, and lecturer Thea Ionescu, PhD, specialists of the field of development psychology, psychology of early childhood and adolescence.

Financial support and future plans

The program did not benefit from any financial support except the regular budget of the Ministry of Education that covered the costs for 10-12 candidates.

Future plans: As budgeted places can only be financed by the state for the regular (day by day) program, and because practitioners find it difficult to attend such a program, for the future we plan finding resources for developing a low cost part-time program, especially targeting professionals from public services and civil society.

Exchanges

Along the years, students were offered to participate in Erasmus and Erasmus+ exchanges, in the Free University Berlin and in London School of Education. For the future, we plan to enlarge collaboration in other European Universities. Students also participate in Students' Networks for training and research, in summer schools and conferences on children's rights.