

The lived experience in an institution

- My name is Moldovan Elisabeta
- I am the Co-President of Ceva de Spus Association

THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO ABANDON THE NEWBORN IN THE HOSPITAL.



I was abandoned when I was 6 weeks old

THE ORPHANAGE IS THE PLACE WHERE ABANDONED CHILDREN GO.



I lived for 25 years in different institutions.



THEY USED TO CALL ME VETA IN THE ORPHANAGE. THIS IS WHAT I'D BEEN CALLED FOR 23 YEARS.



We were 25 or 30 persons in one room. Now, the material living conditions are better, but the people living in institutions have the same rules and live similar lives. The money are not spent for the development of the persons with disabilities.

THEY WERE ALL WATCHING ME, SMILING AND SINGING A HAPPY SONG. I WAS EMBARRASSED, BUT I ALSO FELT HAPPY. MRS. BOTA THEN ASKED ME TO SHARE MY CANDIES WITH THE OTHER KIDS.



In the 6th grade, I learned when is my birthday and had the first celebration.

MR. HELMUT HAD PUT UP A CHRISTMAS TREE AND LOADS OF PRESENTS UNDERNEATH. IT WAS LIKE A DREAM, FULL OF SWEETS. MY FIRST CHRISTMAS!



Also in the 6th grade, some German visitors tried to organise our first Christmas Party.

AFTER 8 YEARS SPENT IN THE SAME PLACE, ALL OF A SUDDEN I WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION.



I HAD NO IDEA WHETHER THEY WERE GOING TO TRANSFER MARIA AS WELL...



I was moved from orphanage to orphanage, without any right to refuse.



I worked for the employees.

Instead of money, I received a few cigarettes and a piece of bacon after a hard day's work.



I was sedated for disobedience.



As punishment, I had my hair cut of and was thrown into the basement.



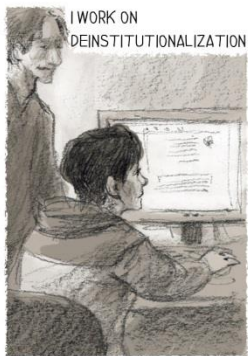
Now I live in the community.

At first, I was scared, I didn't trust people around me and I didn't believe in myself.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF MY FRIENDS, WE MANAGED TO BRING TO LIFE THIS SELF-ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION.



I started learning with the help of my friends and the persons who believed in me and supported me to develop.



- We need a strong commitment for deinstitutionalisation and support from the government
- For example, for a person living in an institution, the romanian state payed 1130 EUR per month. As soon as this person moved in a protected house, where the quality of life is better and the services are provided in the community, the state pays only 380 EUR. The real cost in this service that our Association supports is 1050 EUR.



Inclusion for all!

Children

Adults

Regardless of the nature or the severity of the disability

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgMVpRN7DaU>