



The voices of children matter

Encouraging children and youth participation



Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide.

At Terre des hommes Romania we want to support children to participate in community life and develop strong voices at home, at school and in their community. Practicing their participation rights empowers them on long term to protect themselves and other children and youth.

We work with migrant children every day and know how important it is, after separation from their home, to find a community where they belong, where their needs are heard and listened to.

We promote children' participation as one of their fundamental rights and a valuable tool to prevent abuses and injustice.

Children's voices and their participation guide us in our projects in support of migrant children and youth. The right for participation is fundamental, as it supports them to learn about their other rights and defend themselves and other children in case of abuses and injustice. Strengthening the participation and empowerment of children is one of the best ways to support their development on long term, but also contribute to the prevention of abuses against children and youth.



Child Advisory Board.

Two groups of Ukrainian children and teenagers aged 12 to 17 meet every week in Bucharest and Braşov, guided by a psychologist facilitator, to spend time together, discuss their problems and create projects for what has become a community of children and



teenagers at Terre des hommes Romania. Some of them attended the 2023 Global Refugee Forum in Geneva and spoke about the need of refugee teenagers to have their own community spaces where they can connect.

Takeover Day.

For the past two years, we have also involved Ukrainian children in Terre des hommes' traditional Takeover Day event. With 13 years of history in Romania, Takeover Day event celebrates the right of all children and young people to participate in society and takes place around World Children's Day, 20th of November, marking the date when the Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted. Under the guidance of a coordinator, children, and young people, aged 12 to



sure that all are informed about children's rights, the history of these rights and that we make it clear, every day, that children's views on the Terre des hommes projects are the most important ones. Through this, we also want to help them recognise possible abuses and what to do if they suspect they or those close to them are at risk.

Projects co-created with children:

Last year, children and teenagers participated in animation workshops where they created characters and stories together. It was a unique

18, choose the jobs they want to take over, and then they are connected by teacher-coordinators or by Terre des hommes with mentors from their community. Children then spend a "workday" with their mentor and will be better equipped to decide about their professional future.

Information and consultation on children's rights.

When we work directly with children and their parents, we want to make



opportunity, in a warm environment, to share their stories and be creative together with their peers. Various cultural and art products, like theatre forum, participatory short movies and child friendly materials had been designed by children and youth as creative interventions to answer to different problems they face in the community: the feeling of being isolated, gender-based violence, bullying. These innovative actions meaningfully empower children and youth and build their resilience and psychosocial skills.

Building safe spaces.

Migrant children and teenagers need safe spaces where they can meet simply to spend time together, connect with each other's stories, and be gently guided by adults. We have created such spaces in Bucharest and Braşov – Resilience and Innovation Facility - where children learn to build objects



through printing 3D; teenagers gather to play boardgames or participate in language clubs where they practice English skills at their own pace or work on their own ideas of self-made projects.

Terre des hommes has been active in Romania for the past 30 years, as the local delegation of the most important Swiss Foundation for the protection of children. In 2023 alone, we supported almost 12.000 Ukrainian refugees (children and families in Romania) by offering them a chance to peace, education and to the future.

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