

- MISSIO LINK INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION 22 I. BARAC, 300151 TIMISOARA, ROMANIA

- MissioInternational

- ANNUAL REPORT \(\big| \)



missiolinkinternational Partnering Christians in Witness and Action

OUR MISSION

Missio is a Latin word used to speak of the "mission of God", that is, missio Dei. As a name, Missio Link International reflects the calling and vision of the MLI team to take part in

Pastor Eugen Groza (1954-2018) and a group of capable Romanian leaders who worked together for over 25 years, formed MLI in 2001 to address the material and spiritual needs of the Romanian people through avariety of successful ministry initiatives, including **Church in Mission, Alpinis Leadership Center** and **Children at Risk.**

We equip, resource and enable leadership and ministry in local churches and through the Alpinis Leadership Center. We act in prevention and assistance for girls who are survivors of severe abuse and traffic and for disadvantaged children in Romania.

With a common bond of Christian values, we partner with churches, organizations and individuals, from Romania, USA and Europe. Our partnerships are based on relationships of trust and accountability, sharing resources, prayer, and work in Christian witness and action.





Church in Mission







MLI equips and enables local churches in their mission through two

- programs:

 Church Partnering
- Leadership Development

Alpiniş Leadership Center







The ALC embodies our vision to facilitate the formation of Christian values and character and to equip the younger generation in Romania whoes and chalacter and to exploit it younger generation through outdoor and leadership development programs.

ALC programs:

Alpinis Youth Programs, camps & outdoors

The Paltinis Leadership Institute, training & mentoring

CAR - Children/Youth At Risk

Nurture









The Children at Risk programs address the physical and spiritual needs of the most disadvantaged category in Romania. The programs naturally fit into these categories:

- Prevention: Back to School
- Rescue and Healing: Deborah House
 Providing a future: Aspirations and Harmony

CHURCH IN MISSION

Inside Out

We desire to see transformation in churches and communities.



Today, we are observing an awareness, a complementary focus in many churches that includes a commitment to spiritual formation and an appreciation for community transformation. We call this initiative INSIDE OUT!





Healthy churches honor God by calibrating themselves to look inward and outward. Inward refers to Spiritual Formation, the disciplined development of Christian character. Outward reflects Community Transformation, the missional engagement of neighbors and neighborhoods.

CHURCH IN MISSION

CHURCH PARTNERING



For the first time after the pandemic, one of the oldest church partners, Washington Baptist Avenue Church (WBAC), Cookeville, TN, USA, visited their church partners from Timisoara, Lenauheim, Peştere, Nădrag,

New partnerships and projects:

- > Three new partnerships with pastors actively involved in church planting and outreach in the Tulcea and Danube Delta areas, east Romania; they minister to older adults in hospice centers in the Tuclea area, prison ministry, leading Bible study groups, counseling, children's ministry and camps, and not least serving Ukrainian refugees.
- One new partnership with a pastor in Covasna, central Romania doing prison ministry in Codlea since 2007.
- Movie on the Wheels, Cărpiniş was a two-day children and youth evangelistic event in July 2023 with over 120 participants.

Ukraine Relief:

Although the amount of support has decreased compared to 2022, we focused on relief for Ukrainian refugees, primarily in southeast



We partner with Reaching Hands/the IntegrALL program led by pastor Adi Popa, serving Ukrainian children and families in the Tulcea area, on the border with Ukraine.



✓ Relief aid into Ukraine in the Odessa area in January, February, and May 2023. We partner with local pastors to distribute aid.







partners in Tulcea, Giurgiu, Alba Iulia, and Timisoara.

CHURCH IN MISSION



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 450 participants in pastors and missionaries conferences, regional and intensive training sessions, serving over 70 churches in Romania with a total of over 5000 members;





Church-Based Leadership Development Groups

The LD groups continue to meet and grow. We have five new groups: two in Timisoara, one in Resita, one group in Pojejena, southwest Romania, and one in Piatra Neamt, east Romania.

Training & Conferences

Two regional trainings and the Mission Conference March 15-28, 2023, Dr. Stan Johnson and Jack Ellett from Zionsville Presbyterian Church (ZPC), IN, made their first visit after the pandemic in $Romania. \ It was an intense time, encouraging for the church partners, and$ we made good use of Dr. Johnson's teaching gifts:

March 17-19: Regional training in Giurgiu;
March 24-25: Regional training in Timisoara;
March 20-23: Mission Conference at Alpinis Leadership Center, with 55 leaders from church partners in Fetesti, Giurgiu, Medgidia, Alexandria, Zimnicea, Timisoara, and Cluj.

The general theme of the conference and training was related to Dr. Stan Johnson's book, translated into Romanian, The Sent One, a study on the

Intensive Training and conferences

- May 8-11: Radu Oprea, pastor at Emanuel Baptist Church Timisoara, was the guest speaker. The theme was "Expository preaching: tools and examples." Forty pastors and missionaries from three regions of Romania attended the conference.
- November 3-5 MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) Conference. The ministry initiated through the partnership with ZPC has flourished in Romania with local and national leaders.
- November 13-16: Dr. Louis Cloete was the guest speaker. The theme was Biblical Counseling. Forty-five pastors and missionaries from the partnering churches attended the training session.
- December 7-10, regional training, Cărpinis, Timișoara area, with pastors and leaders from west Romania. The guest speaker was Dr. Carey Akin from Global Servant Leadership, GA, US, focusing on Godly Servant Leadership.

Annual Pastors' Conference, September 4-8

Almost sixty pastors and spouses participated in the MLI pastors' conference in Sinaia. Dr. Emil Bartos and his wife Tatiana led the conference on Temptations and Priorities in the Gospel of Luke. Richard Mauney and Claudiu Turturean, Greater Europe Mission and Jubilate, led the worship time. Richard also introduced his book on worship and had a session on Sabbath Rest for the participants.
GROVE Group, TN, US, ZPC, IN, US, West Park Baptist Church, TN, US, and

participants' contributions made the conference possible.

Trauma Healing training



October 23-26 Stephanie Moore facilitated the training in Romania in close collaboration with the American Bible Society and the Romanian Interconfessional Bible Society. Thirtyfive new people, some Ukrainian and some working with Ukrainian refugees, attended this training and had a chance to become facilitators for Trauma Healing groups in Romania. Special thanks to Christ Church of Oakbrook, IL, for supporting the training.





Romanian Map - MLI Leadership Development Areas 2023



ALPINIŞ LEADERSHIP CENTER (ALC)

ALPINIŞ LEADERSHIP CENTER (ALC)

2110 people served in 49 groups

Project Development and Operation

Until June 2023, ALC functioned in a 'soft-opening' mode, with work on final building details continuing $simultaneously\,with\,operations\,and\,ministry.$

ALC is fully functional; the equivalent of the Certificate of Occupancy was issued in July. We are adapting to the new location, adding people to the team, serving groups and programs.

Our team on the site includes eight full-time employees, a couple of day laborers for the cleaning department, and several volunteers from Romania and the USA. Dasha, a young woman from Ukraine, joined the team helping with hospitality and groups.



The highlight of 2023 was the ALC dedication in June, a particular time of celebration, of honoring God and so many partners who shared in the vision and work of Alpinis. Seeing how this new location is a blessing for so many is overwhelming.



ALC Volunteers

- Corina and Mihaela from Deborah House:
- Wesley Platt from First Baptist, Clinton, MS, spent a week working at
- Greg Ward, Memphis, TN, also came to serve as a volunteer for one



Projects completed in 2023

- ✓ Tables and chairs were purchased on the deck.
- ✓ With a grant from Ends of the Earth Cycling, we completed team building and activities projects: a sports field, a zipline, a hammocks area, and a climbing wall.
- ▼ The sports field is brought to a functional stage with a volleyball net and a small and large football field.
- Solar panels for electricity two Romanian partners provided resources (over 30,000€) to develop a 48KW solar panel system at ALC. This has been installed at ALC and has been functional since November 2023.







ALPINIŞ LEADERSHIP CENTER (ALC)

ALC

Alpiniș Outdoors and Youth programs

- > We see 2023 as a new start at ALC with both the continuation of programs and new programs.
- $\blacktriangleright \quad \text{We continue to prepare activities and youth programs for winter and summer.}$
- > The winter season was very full with groups and ski camps. One highlight was the February 20-25 families and children's ski camp.
- ➤ Between September 28 October 1, ALC hosted the MLI team retreat, facilitated and funded by our partner Christ Church of Oakbrook, IL, USA.









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ALC

The Păltiniș Leadership Institute

For PLI, 2023 was a year of testing and promoting the program, we focused on training and team-building sessions, which will help us test the market's needs and make ourselves known.

- January 20 21: Teambuilding and planning retreat of the PLI Committee.
- ✓ March 31 April 2: Teambuilding/training: "The Power of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership" led by trainers Vali Lupu and Camelia Filip.
- April 10 and 20: two webinars on Self-awareness and Value. Ionică Grigorescu and Vali Lupu facilitated the two webinars.
- ✓ October 6-8: Teambuilding/training: "Management Skills" led by Elvis and Alina Filote, founders of Synergic Teams, a consulting, coaching, and training firm for business people in Bucharest.
- ✓ October 19 and November 23: webinars facilitated by Elvis and Alina Filote, with the themes "Leadership Styles" and " Structure, rhythm, management processes."

















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CHILDREN AT RISK

- 469 children and youth and 70 families served
- In January 2023, Fivi Dănălache took over the MLI-Children at Risk ministries Coordination.





SOCIAL CONTEXT

Demographic Data



According to the data published by the National Institute of Statistics (INS), Romania's population by residence was 21,922,000 people as of January 1,2023, down 0.4% from January 1 of the previous year.

Child Protection

For the second consecutive year, The National Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoptions (ANPDCA) report for 2023 shows a decrease in the number of children in the special protection system compared to 2022.

Table 1. Overview of the special child protection system

YEAR	Total children in the protection system	Children in the public foster care system	Children in the public residential system	Children in family and private residential systems (NGO, relatives, other families)	Children are aged 14-17 years in the residential system.
2022	42,029	16,423	9,267	16,339	5,516
2023	38,337	15,657	8,327	14,353	5,146

Child abuse and exploitation in 2023



Although the ANPDCA report 2023 shows a gratifying decrease in the number of children in the special protection system compared to 2022, the number of child abuse victims reported in 2023 continues to be higher than in 2022.

Table 2. Child abuse statistics

YEAR	Children victims of abuse	Children abused in the family	Children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation	Girls victims of abuse	Girls victims of sexual abuse and exploitation
2022	17,175	14,993	1,532	9,398	1,343
2023	17,709	15,116	1,547	9,679	1,370

Table 3. Distribution by age

YEAR	Cases	<1 year old	1-2 years old	3-6 years old	7-9 years old	10-13 years old	14-17 years old	>18 years old
2022	Total cases of abuse, of which:	1,095	1,395	2,917	2,533	4,192	5,001	18
	- Sexual abuse	1	6	54	106	468	844	7
	- Sexual exploitation	0	0	1	1	15	50	0
2023	Total cases of abuse, of which:	1,212	1,522	2,910	2,539	4,172	5,307	47
	-Sexual abuse	1	1	58	101	471	864	8
	-Sexual exploitation	0	0	0	1	9	32	1

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CHILDREN AT RISK

Human Trafficking



According to the 2023 analysis published by ANITP, 451 victims were registered in 2023, compared to 500 victims in 2022.

Distribution of identified victims of trafficking by gender and age:

Total	Men	Women	Girls	Boys	Minors
451	14%	37%	40%	9%	49%

- ➤ For the first time in the last five years, there is a decrease in the number of minors under the age of 14 trafficked (-23%) and, at the same time, a slight increase (+5.5%) in the number of victims in the category 14-17 years, by identifying a higher number of male minors.
- ➤ The 18-25 age group is the largest among adult female victims, with two-thirds being young women in this category.
- ➤ A significant aspect in creating the context of vulnerability to trafficking is the family situation of victims. Almost 1 in 5 victims came from children's homes, foster families, or in the care of relatives at the time of recruitment. In the case of minor victims identified in 2023, the share of those who were in the mentioned situations increased for women, 37%; men, 14%; girls, 40%; boys, 9%; and minors, 49%.
- As of December 31, 2023, 33,936 children from the conflict zone in Ukraine have been identified in Romania, of which 119 have been integrated into the special protection system and 33,817 in the community.



Juvenile Delinquency



According to the ANPDCA report, in 2023:

- 1,201 children committed crimes for which they are not criminally liable, compared to 1,030 children in the same period in 2022.
- 2,183 children committed crimes for which they are criminally responsible, compared to 1,719 children in the same period in 2022.
- In Timis County, in 2023, no crimes were committed by minors.



 $According to the {\it Ministry} of {\it Justice's National Agency} of {\it Penitentiaries report}, the {\it recidivism rate} in 2023 was 36.73\%, the {\it lowest in the last tenyears}.$



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DEBORAH HOUSE



CASE STATISTICS 2023

Year	Girls at the end of the previous year	Girls coming in the current year	Girls out of service/program			Girls in service at the end of the year
			Reintegrated into the family	Transferred to other MLI programs	Integrate social	
2022	17	7	0	3	0	21
2023	21	3	0	1	3	20

EDUCATION STATISTICS

Year	Kindergarten	Preschool (cls 0)	Cls. I-IV	Cls. V-VIII	High- school	Vocational training
2022	0	0	5	12	6	8
2023	0	0	3	9	6	3

Project Development and Activities

- In 2023, the average age was 14.7 years.
- In 2023, MLI represented seven girls in the prosecution and court against abusers. Three of the seven girls are sisters.
- In 2023, MLI consented to four new girls, of which three moved in before the end of the year.
- In 2023, one girl moved into Aspirations, and three girls started the independent life.
- From August 7 to 12, Deborah House and a team from SERVE YOUTH, Northern Ireland, UK, attended a camp at Alpinis Leadership Center (ALC), funded by our friends from Northern Ireland.
- The project "Giving you will acquire," through which, with the help of Hebron FPC, the girls made over 200 shoe boxes that, for Christmas, went to children from disadvantaged communities.
- "Gift and Grace" a CEAS Federation project that Deborah House joined. The girls ran a school toys and books donation campaign that children with parents in prison received as Christmas gifts from their parents.
- Our girls volunteered for the Food Bank's food collection campaigns.
- Two girls undertaking vocational training in the hospitality industry volunteered for six weeks at ALC. The girls had a wonderful experience there and plan to return as volunteers.
- In July 2023, eight governmental institutions inspected both Deborah Houses.













Events and Partners visiting Deborah House

- We appreciated the Ride 4 RO Kids Blue Ridge Parkway Bike Ride dedicated to the girls. Each felt special being named and having a day dedicated during the ride.
- Two groups related to Missio International visited us in
- First Baptist Church, Clinton, MS, USA, coordinated by Megan Moore.
- Hebron Free Presbyterian Church, from Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, UK
- SERVE YOUTH from Northern Ireland sent two teams and alternated Bible lessons for our girls, children, and young people in the Back to School and Harmony
- Mt. Bethel Church, Marietta, GA, USA, coordinated by Chris and Patricia Sweitzer.
- Vessels of Mercy International, Richmond, VA, USA.
- During the school year, we resumed the Zoom meetings with the teenage girls from Mt. Bethel Church. The girls meet monthly, share a devotion, and worship together.









CHILDREN AT RISK Involvement of the local community

- The Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Timisoara supported DH through prayer and monthly donations. In addition to this, they organized occasional socializing activities for the girls.
- Bethel Baptist Church in Timişoara continued to support DH's work and the ministries in Recas and Buzias, both spiritually and materially.
- > Adi Hudulin joined our team as a volunteer chaplain for the girls and house-parents at Deborah House.
- The Association of Christian Police Officers visited Deborah House and led a workshop on trafficking and drug prevention from a Biblical perspective.
- Biblical perspective.

 The volunteers and young families from Timisoara formed an initiative group that meets regularly with the team and girls. They continue to organize the girls' birthday parties every month and take them shopping on a predetermined budget. In addition, quarterly, there is a one-day activity, usually on Saturdays, with all the girls, thus giving the social parents a day of respite.

 The return to normal social life brought back to Deborah House old friends, children, and young people from the Interact and Rotaract Clubs in Timisoara.









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ASPIRATIONS

Evolution of cases in the program

Year	Total cases at the end of the previous year	cases in the	Total cases in protected apartments	Total young women who benefit only from counselling/training /financial aid	Total young women out of the program at the end of the year
2022	2	3	4	2	3
2023	3	1	3	1	3

Program development

The apartment rented in 2012 covered the accommodation needs for the girls who graduated from Deborah House in 2022 and 2023.





CHILDREN AT RISK



CHILDREN AT RISK

HARMONY

- In 2023, we could continue the work in Buziaş and the ministry in the Recaş area since 2008, when MLI started the two programs, primarily due to the annual support from a family from the USA covering 50%—90% of the budget. This is because God put the evangelization of vulnerable children and young people in their hearts, and since then, in times of abundance and drought, they have passed on the blessing received.
- Unfortunately, in the last few months, the number of offenders has increased from 150 to 170. Less than 100 young people attend MLI's activities and bible lessons every Saturday and Sunday (Doru's project, My Choice), and most girls take cooking
- lessons twice a month (Rodica's project, Let's Cook Healthy). Our colleagues are working with the offenders with the constant support of the volunteers involved in the ministry.
- Teams that visit CAR programs also visit the Reeducation Center in Buzias; sharing Christ with those who seem far from Him and isolated is always a moving experience.
- The Easter and Christmas special services hosted by Bethel Baptist Church in Timispara remain one of the few opportunities for the youngsters from Buziaş Education Center to spend a few hours outside the center's walls.



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BACK TO SCHOOL







CHILDREN AT RISK



The situation of students enrolled in the last two school years at CSEICP Recaș is as follows:

School Year	Number of students
2022-2023	242
2023-2024	269

Projects and activities

- Weekly, throughout the school year, we provide 16 hours of Bible lessons, grouped into two days/week.
- In 2023, about 70 families benefited from the aid; each family received help once every two months, proportionally to the number of school children.
- In addition to the Bible lessons in class, MLI organized a trip to the Roman ruins of Sarmizegetusa for the children in the program and visits to a monastery near Timisoara.
- During the summer holidays, together with the SERVE YOUTH team from Northern Ireland, we organized Vacation Bible School for the children from Recas.
- For Easter and Christmas 2023, about 150 children from the Recaş area were invited to the special event Bethel Baptist Church in Timişoara has been organizing since December 1990.

- ➤ With the students' return to class in physical format, MLI resumed the Bible lessons with the students of the Constantin Păunescu School Center for Inclusive Education in Recaş, a school with which MLI has been partnering since 2008. Weekly, throughout the school year, we provide 16 hours of Bible lessons, grouped into two days/week.
- In 2022, about 80 families benefited from the aid; each family receives help once every two months, proportionally to the number of school children.
- We believe that the benefits of the Back to School program, with its two dimensions, spiritual and material, are also beginning to be reflected in the dramatic reduction of school dropouts among children from vulnerable communities in the Recaş administrative area. For example, in the first school year after the pandemic, at the Constantin Päunescu SCIE in Recaş, the school dropout rate was 0.7%, well below the national average. In other words, out of 91 students enrolled in high school, 89 graduated, which means 89 young people with increased chances of social inclusion.
- In addition to the Bible lessons in class, MLI organized for the children in the program a trip to the Roman ruins of Sarmizegetusa, where they had a lesson in ancient history and applied culture and learned about the temples of the old gods, polytheism, and monotheism.
- During the summer holidays, together with the SERVE YOUTH team from Northern Ireland, we organized two series of Vacation Bible School for the children from Recas.







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NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

MLI continues to be actively involved in ProTECT. In 2023, ProTECT had four positions on legislative changes, one of the most important of which is the consent of minors to sexual intercourse, and initiated a cross-sectoral working group to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

In 2023, MLI was actively involved in the Christian Federation for Education and Social Work CEAS. Within the federation, MLI assists minor victims of crimes, prevents victimization and delinquency through education based on Christian values, and assists in the social reintegration of minors with protection measures, including deprivation of liberty.



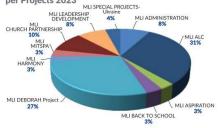






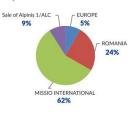
2023 MLI Financial Report





MLI 2023 Operational Income by Source

THE AUDIT OPINION



The Audit Opinion

Independent Auditor's Report

Unqualified opinion

Unqualified opinion

Z. In our opinion, the annual financial statements of the Foundation describe fairly, in all material respects, its financial position and performance as of December 31, 2023, in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 82/1991-Accounting Aur pepublished with subsequent amendments and additions, Order of the Ministry of Public Finance no. 180/22014 for the approval of the Accounting Regulations on the individual annual financial statements and consolidated financial statements with subsequent amendments and the Government Ordinance 26/2000 - updated - on Associations and Foundations and the Order of the Ministry of Public Finance no. 3103/2017.

As a result of the above, the auditor's opinion is an unqualified one.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

14. In connection with our audit of the individual financial statements, we have read the Report signed by the Board of Directors, which is annexed to the individual financial statements and report that:

(a) In the Report of the Board of Directors, we have not identified any information that is not consistent, in all material respects, with the information presented in the accompanying individual financial statements;

b) The Report of the Board of Directors identified above includes, in all material respects, bit in information required by the Order of the Ministry of Public Finance no. 1802/2014, paragraphs 489–492, it approve the Accounting Regulations;

c) Based on our knowledge and understanding acquired during our audit and the individual financial statements for the year ended on December 31, 2023 with respect to the Foundation and its environment, we have not identified any information included in the Report of the Board of Directors that is misstated.

Date: 01.04.2024

HIRSOVEANU VIOLETA

Financial auditor registered with the Chamber of Financial Auditors of Romania with the no. 828/2001

MLI 2023 Calendar



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MLI Board Members

- Petru Bulica
- Lauren Clevenger
- Matt Gall
- Daniel Martinescu
- Alex Neagoe
- Jeff Normand
- Cristi Pop
- Emil Toader, President Missio Link International (MLI)
- Kenny Woodhull, President of MI

With loving memory we mention former board members, MLI founder Pastor Eugen Groza, and co-founders Alec and Pati Woodhull, Knoxville, TN.

MLI **Executive Team**

- Emil Toader President
- Lorena Rusovan Executive Director
- Ioan-Sebastian Pătlăgescu Financial Director

MLI Organizational Chart 2023



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