

Scientific report regarding the project implementation between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021

A. Summary of the research stage

Within the framework of the project entitled “Raising the Nation. Institutional and Grassroots Initiatives for Orphan Welfare in Transylvania during Dualism” (project code PN-III-P-1.1.-TE-2019-0472), an array of activities, covering the objectives described in the project work plan for Stage II of the project implementation, were successfully undertaken. This series of complementary activities will be discussed in an itemized manner in the present report. The research and dissemination were focused in several directions, as follows:

- Tracing the development of the legislative framework regarding the welfare and care for orphans during Dualism;
- Charting the institutional and grassroots initiatives regarding the welfare and care for orphans during Dualism;
- Reconstituting orphans’ experiences as objects of public debate in Transylvania and as subjects of their own historical narratives;
- Collecting, integrating, and analyzing both micro and macro-level data on orphans in Transylvania;
- Disseminating research findings through various channels, in different environments.

B. Scientific and technical description of research stage

The first research activity (2.1) focused on **the analysis of the parliamentary debates occasioned by those legislative projects concerned with the situation of orphans**, as these were discussed in the two chambers of the Budapest Parliament during Dualism. This analysis traced the entanglements between these pieces of legislation and the debates surrounding the educational laws passed towards the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, which heavily promoted the process of Magyarization by exclusively fostering education in the Hungarian language. This research activity was fully accomplished. Dissemination channel: *The findings from this analysis were integrated into the introductory study of a projected edited volume – to be published in 2022, title to be announced – which collects and provides in Romanian translation a series of relevant pieces of legislation concerned with the orphans of Transylvania and Dualist Hungary between the early nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries.*

The second research activity (2.2), continued from the previous stage (2020), focused on **charting the network of state and confessional institutions which provided care for orphans**, with an emphasis on environments with different political and organizational traditions, which encompassed different confessional and ethnical mosaics. *To this purpose, archival research trips were undertaken at the County Archives in Bistrița-Năsăud, Sibiu, Oradea and Târgu-Mureș. As*

a follow-up to this activity, the next step (2.3) was to **select the most appropriate institutional frameworks for in-depth case studies**, with an emphasis on the numbers and ages of institutionalized children, at different points in time, these institutions' activity and financial management. This research activity was fully accomplished. Dissemination channel: *Several of these institutions as well as their impact on orphans' experiences were discussed in the study by E. Gál – "Raised by Strangers: A Childhood in State Care in Dualist Transylvania", Romanian Journal of Population Studies, 1/2021.*

The fourth research activity (2.4) focused on **conducting a prosopographic analysis of the leadership of the county-level Orphan courts in Transylvanian counties during Dualism**. These individuals were identified on the basis of the *Hof und Staatshandbuch der Österreichisch-Hungarisch Monarchie*. This research activity was fully accomplished. Dissemination channel: *The findings of this analysis were described in the study by O.E. Iudean and N. Hegedűs entitled „Overseeing Orphans' Care: The Presidents of the Orphan Courts in Transylvania during Dualism”, Romanian Journal of Population Studies, 2/2021 (forthcoming).*

The fifth research activity (2.5) focused on **charting the network of national-cultural and national-confessional civic associations which operated in Transylvania during Dualism, whose goal was to improve the situation of orphans**. This was accomplished by conducting a broad survey of statutes and annual reports, many of which were published in the times' press, as well as by resorting to a series of larger surveys of welfare and associational activity, published in the interwar era. This research activity was fully accomplished. Dissemination channel: *The findings resulting from this research activity were disseminated by O.E. Iudean in a conference paper entitled “Each Orphan Raised into a Romanian of Integrity Is Worth More than Thousands of Crowns in the Bank!” Supporting the Secondary Education of Romanian Orphans in Dualist Hungary”, presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, in New York (2021 – online).*

The following research activity (2.6) involved **the identification of exemplary individuals from several confessional, ethnical, and social-economic environments who were orphaned of one or both parents after mid-nineteenth century and before the beginning of the twentieth century**. This activity was accomplished by resorting to a variety of sources, including biographical dictionaries, contemporary press, lists of orphans supported by various national associations, etc. This research activity was fully accomplished. Findings will be disseminated in studies submitted for publication in 2022. The follow-up activity (2.7), which was also conducted with the involvement of the entire research team, focused on the **selection and qualitative analysis of a sample of exemplary orphaned individuals whose surviving ego-documents (memoirs, correspondence, etc.) can be used to reconstitute the experiences of orphans in modern Transylvania, from an internal perspective**. In order to accomplish this second activity, *the project team members undertook several archival research trips at the County Archives of Bistrița-Năsăud, Sibiu, Oradea and Târgu-Mureș*. This research activity was partially accomplished and will be continued into the next stage of project implementation. Findings will be disseminated in studies submitted for publication in 2022.

A further research activity (2.8) focused on **charting the orphan-guardian/tutor relationship on the basis of narrative sources, as well as on other archival or edited documents, with an emphasis on trans-ethnic or trans-confessional guardianship/tutelage, its formative character and its resilience over time.** This research activity was partially accomplished and will be continued into the next stage of project implementation. Dissemination channel: *Part of the research findings from this activity have already been discussed in the study by L. Dumănescu and N. Hegedűs entitled „Orphanhood and Guardianship in Transylvania at the Turn of the Twentieth Century. Case Study: Tutelage Files from Alba de Jos County”, Romanian Journal of Population Studies, 1/2021. Another perspective on this issue will appear in the study by O. Sorescu-Iudean, “The Cause of the Fatherless: Spiritual and Material Guardianship in Eighteenth-Century Transylvania”, Romanian Journal of Population Studies, 2/2021 (forthcoming).*

Two other research activities focused on archival source and data collection on the one hand, and on transcription and data entry on the other hand. First, activity 2.9 involved the **selection, transcription and preparing for digital publication of a representative sample of judicial proceedings from several archival funds of Orphan courts in Transylvania, which evidence the variety of ways in which orphans’ rights, relatives’ interests and guardians’ goals could come to clash.** This research activity was partially accomplished and will be continued into the next stage of project implementation. Findings will be disseminated through a digital/print source edition in 2022. Secondly, activity 2.10 involved the **collection of data samples concerning the administration of orphans’ estates in different and varied micro-regions in Transylvania, with an emphasis on the coverage of a wide spectrum of ethnic-confessional and social-economic backgrounds** (both elite or middle-class orphans, as well as orphans with limited means). This research activity was fully accomplished. Findings will be disseminated in the form of datasets available through the Probate Database of Transylvania after the completion of the project. For both research activities, *the project team members undertook archival research stages at the County Archives of Bistrița-Năsăud, Sibiu, Oradea and Târgu-Mureș. The sample collected in 2.9 was additionally useful in drafting the studies noted as research findings for activity 2.8. The data samples collected for activity 2.10 included the highly complex orphan estate management documentation for the Military Border Regiment area of Năsăud, which will be discussed in a forthcoming study, and which is of great relevance to the social history of the Habsburg Empire.* As a follow-up to activity 2.10, the **data samples discussed – focusing on the management of orphans’ estates and tutors’ identity – have been integrated into the existing digital infrastructure of the Probate Database of Transylvania. The structure of this database has been augmented as necessary to accommodate these newly-created datasets (activity 2.11).** This activity was fully accomplished. Findings will be disseminated in the form of datasets available through the Probate Database of Transylvania after the completion of the project.

The following research activity (2.12) has focused again on **data systematization and the integration of macro-level data from various institutional frameworks with data from censuses and statistical publications of the Hungarian state, in order to reconstitute different models of welfare provisions, in relation to relevant development indicators.** This activity was fully accomplished. Findings have been partially disseminated *in the study by Dumănescu and Hegedűs noted above.*

The following four research activities (2.13 through 2.16) focused primarily on the dissemination of research findings. The first of these activities (2.13) concerned **the construction and maintenance of a project website, which includes an English-language blog section** containing vignettes from the research process, mostly centering on either archival finds or on brief methodological notes with relevance to the wider field of social history of East-Central and South-Eastern Europe. This dissemination activity is ongoing, to be continued in the next stage of project implementation. In addition, the project findings and its calls for dissemination were **circulated to a wider scientific audience through a Twitter account**. This dissemination activity is ongoing, to be continued in the next stage of project implementation. Both of these dissemination channels will be updated in the following stages. Another means of disseminating findings was the **augmented and extended Probate Database of Transylvania, from which various sample datasets will be publicly available for download after the project implementation period (activity 2.14)**. This dissemination activity is ongoing, to be continued in the next stage of project implementation. The project's research findings have also been disseminated by attending international prestigious scientific conferences in the field of history (activity 2.15). This dissemination activity is ongoing, to be continued in the next stage of project implementation. Dissemination channel: *Thus, the project team members presented four papers at international scientific events: the PL presented the paper entitled*

- *“Each Orphan Raised into a Romanian of Integrity Is Worth More than Thousands of Crowns in the Bank!” Supporting the Secondary Education of Romanian Orphans in Dualist Hungary” at the **Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities** (May 2021, New York, online);*

E. Gál gave three conference presentations, as follows:

*- “Raising the Orphans of Transylvania. Child Protection and Nationalism after 1918” at the **Ethnicising Europe: Hate and Violence in Post-Versailles Europe** conference (July 2021, Vienna, online);*

*- “Orphan care and child protection in interwar Transylvania” at the **Administrative cultures in transition in the Habsburg successor states** conference (May 2021, Vienna, online);*

*- “Healthy Babies for the Nation: The Evolution of State Child Welfare System in Interwar Banat and Transylvania” at the **Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities** (May 2021, New York, online); This paper was awarded the [Doctoral Student Award for Central Europe at the ASN conference](#), a highly prestigious distinction.*

Project research findings will be disseminated through conferences and workshops in the next stage of implementation as well.

Finally, as outlined in activity 2.16, several studies were alternately published or submitted for publication. This dissemination activity is ongoing, to be continued in the next stage of project implementation. In order to increase the international visibility of the project, a call for papers for a special issue of the *Romanian Journal for Population Studies* was circulated in Spring of 2021 on the project website and that of the host institution, the [Centre for Population Studies](#). From this

call resulted a double special issue (vol. 1 and vol. 2 of 2021) entitled *Orphanhood in East-Central and South-Eastern Europe (18th- 20th century)*, which hosts articles by project team members as well as authors from Hungary, Greece, Czech Republic and Slovakia. To date, the first part of this special issue has been published online, and will shortly appear in print, while the second part is in the final editing stages. Another study by E. Gál (“The abandoned children of the Banat in the early twentieth century”) has been accepted for publication in the periodical *Banatica* (issue 31/2021).

This activity will be continued in the next stage of project implementation, when several studies will be submitted to international periodicals.

Administrative developments

The structure of the project team remained constant throughout the project implementation stage, with the exception of months September and October 2021, when O. Sorescu-Iudean was on pre- and post-natal leave. During this time, this project member’s attributions were successfully divided between the remaining project members. From November 1st 2021, O. Sorescu-Iudean resumed her tasks as part of the project team.

Project deliverables

I. Papers in periodicals:

Edina Gál, „Raised by Strangers: A Childhood in State Care in Dualist Transylvania” in *Romanian Journal of Population Studies*, vol. XV (2021), Issue 1, p. 9-26.

Luminița Dumănescu, Nicoleta Hegedűs, „Orphanhood and Guardianship in Transylvania at the Turn of the Twentieth Century. Case Study: Tutelage Files from Alba de Jos County”, in *Romanian Journal of Population Studies*, vol. XV (2021), Issue 1, p. 67-88.

Edina Gál, „The abandoned children of the Banat in the early twentieth century”, in *Banatica*, vol. 31 (2021) (accepted for publication).

Oana Sorescu-Iudean, „The Cause of the Fatherless: Spiritual and Material Guardianship in Eighteenth-Century Transylvania” in *Romanian Journal of Population Studies*, vol. XV (2021), Issue 2 (accepted for publication).

Ovidiu-Emil Iudean, Nicoleta Hegedűs, „Overseeing Orphans’ Care: The Presidents of the Orphan Courts in Transylvania during Dualism” in *Romanian Journal of Population Studies*, vol. XV (2021), Issue 2 (accepted for publication).

II. Scientific events attended:

Ovidiu-Emil Iudean, “*Each Orphan Raised into a Romanian of Integrity Is Worth More than Thousands of Crowns in the Bank!*” *Supporting the Secondary Education of Romanian*

Orphans in Dualist Hungary, 25th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), online, 5-8 May 2021, New-York, USA.

Edina Gál, *Healthy Babies for the Nation: The Evolution of State Child Welfare System in Interwar Banat and Transylvania*, 25th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), online, 5-8 May 2021, New-York, USA.

Edina Gál, *Orphan care and child protection in interwar Transylvania*, Administrative cultures in transition in the Habsburg successor states, online, 10-11 May, 2021, Vienna, Austria.

Edina Gál, *Raising the Orphans of Transylvania. Child Protection and Nationalism after 1918*, Ethnicising Europe: Hate and Violence in Post-Versailles Europe, online, 6-8 July 2021, Vienna, Austria.

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Project Leader

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