

## ROMANIA

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| Link person and Email               | Marinescu Livia <a href="mailto:liviatoylibrary@yahoo.co.uk">liviatoylibrary@yahoo.co.uk</a>   |
| National toy library association    | N/A  |
| Web link                            | N/A  |
| Contact person                      | Marinescu Livia <a href="mailto:liviatoylibrary@yahoo.co.uk">liviatoylibrary@yahoo.co.uk</a>   |
| Services offered by the Association | At the three toy libraries described below, in the history section, children can play together at the toy library, and can borrow toys for two weeks. Toy librarians give advice about toys that will help the children's development. Parents enjoy sharing their experience and ask for advice. Thus children have an opportunity for development and adults learn to accept each other as human beings, giving them trust and hope.   |
| Networking                          | Member of the European Toy Library Group; there is one individual ITLA member  |
| <b>Toy Library Information</b>      |  |
| Number of known toy libraries       | 60   |
| Administration                      | NGOs   |
| Communities served (clients)        | Most serve children from families with social problems   |
| Qualifications of toy librarians    | No information at this time  |
| <b>Conferences</b>                  | No information at this time  |
| Meetings                            | No information at this time  |
| <b>Training</b>                     | I have not heard of training in our country, but I (Marinescu Livia) got very good knowledge from Denmark and from our European meetings.  |
| Specific courses offered are: N/A   |  |
| Brief history                       | <p>Most of our toy libraries appeared after 1997 as part of children's homes or hospitals. Nearly 40 of these toy libraries are supported by different foreign association, most of them religious. These toy libraries aim to give some freedom to sick children or to help them not to feel they are abandoned. After 2000, some libraries created play spaces so more children coming to play will also read. A lot of them are just offering few hour of relaxation. Some educators give advice about play systems.</p> <p>In Bucharest different Romanian associations promoted an idea of toy libraries in private kindergartens or school, being similar to an indoor playground for children and parents. Because of the difference in concept and no internal support only a few of us keep in contact. In our area there are three toy libraries based on models from different European countries. They are meant for all children from 1- 24 years old, to include children with disabilities. Toys and games come from Denmark. From 2003 until now children and parents have learnt that this is a place where they can play, communicate in different ways, learn one from each other, that they are equal, and that they can develop by playing.</p> |

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| Events            | The three toy libraries mentioned above celebrate World Play Day every year, inviting other educational institutions to present their thoughts on play. In spring and winter we organized exhibitions and performances with the children. Once a year we have specialists from Denmark educating parents and teachers about children’s problems. Each third month we communicate with parents and psychologists about changes, improvements and results. As a foundation, “Time For Children”, we make partnerships with other educational institutions in our county. |
| Other information | At other toy libraries in Romania, people have different ideas about what toy libraries should do and have good reasons to see things differently. In the three toy libraries described above, we tried to gather good ideas from other countries and use them in our own way.   |