



Beneficiaries at CIA Armonia („Harmony”)

The „Harmony” of Saint Gabriel the Brave: Bedbugs and Smell of Urine and Feces

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Associates of the Minister of Equal Opportunities, Gabriela Firea, receive tens of thousands of euros monthly in public funds for the care of individuals with severe disabilities who, in reality, live among bedbugs and in the smell of urine and feces. People want to leave the center, but the business is so well established that even the state institutions that should be helping them turn a blind eye to the reality.

How did sick people become merchandise for this money-making factory? Imagine a large house that can accommodate 20 people. If it's not in the center of town, such a house can be rented for one to two thousand euros a month. You pay two or three people to take care of them to some extent, spend some money on food, and those are pretty much the costs.

The state is the one that sent these people to live their lives there. It auctions them off periodically, in batches, or even through direct acquisition. And those chosen win or receive them directly, along with the hefty price that the state itself pays to those who take them.

The same state should check the conditions in which they live. Yet, the same state - now through the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) Ilfov - sees nothing wrong with living among bedbugs, in filth, without basic necessities.

When those 20 people bring you about 20,000 euros a month, then the business smells fishy. The money always comes on time, without stress, and the people - lacking defense, rights, and dignity - do not complain, because no one listens to them anyway.

Thus, they end up living infested with bedbugs, "in the smell of feces and urine" and eating from catering only on paper - in reality, some boiled pot meals cooked by who knows who and how - for at least 1,100 euros per month "per head" paid by the state.

Welcome to the "Armonia" Center, the first contact of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association - behind which are Ligia Enache and Ștefan Godei, close associates of the Ilfov masters Pandelescu-Firea couple - with the business of sick and impoverished people, but also with the substantial state funds.

They also make good money in Pipera, Voluntari, but on contract with the subordinates of the Firea-Pandele couple's godson, Robert Negoită, as the **Center for Media Investigations (CMI) and Buletin de București** showed last week.

The trusted people of the Firea-Pandele family set up their association in December 2020, and by March 2021, they authorize it as a "social service provider", the first step towards the holy grail of thousands of euros monthly from the state. They don't even get to the second step, that is, to license their "social service" idyllically named the Care and Assistance Center (CIA) "Armonia", because the money begins to flow.

Most likely illegally.

It's Wednesday, September 7, after lunch. A group of five representatives from the Center for Legal Resources (CLR) stand in front of the house at number 36A on Soseaua Bucuresti-Urziceni, somewhere in Afumați, waiting for the gate to be opened. They want to make an unannounced visit to the center for people with disabilities located here, but they are told through the fence that they cannot enter until the boss arrives.

The center's only employee - who is now taking care of 32 people, most of them with severe mental disabilities - is persuaded to at least allow them access to the yard.

The more than ten beneficiaries of the center who are outside, sitting on some old furniture or on makeshift benches made from pallets, are happy to see new faces.





A brand-new Mercedes GLE SUV, with red license plates, valued at minimum 120,000 euros, brakes in the dust on the edge of the "Moldova road" and parks in front of the house in Afumați.

A towering man hurriedly gets out of it, immediately enters the yard, and starts yelling. This is Ștefan Godei, the "boss" of the private center here, whom the CLR monitors had spoken to on the phone just a few minutes earlier, after they had visited the "Saint Gabriel the Brave" Center in Pipera, Voluntari, which he also manages, in his capacity as president of the association with the same name of a saint that doesn't exist.

"He seemed like a different person compared to whom we had just spoken to on the phone. Then he was calm, answered our questions, understood what we were about, now he was literally beside himself with our presence at this second center of his", Georgiana Pascu, program manager at CLR and the leader of the team that came for monitoring at the house in Afumați, tells the reporters from the Center for Media Investigations (CMI) and Buletin de București.

The CLR monitors are on a visit **based on a protocol** concluded with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The protocol allows them to make unannounced visits to all places where people with mental disabilities are held, to check how these people's rights are respected.

The protocol was concluded on January 9, 2020, for a period of two years, but it states, in the same article, six, that it is tacitly renewed unless expressly terminated. Godei does not recognize the validity of the document and yells at the people to immediately get out of "his yard."

"Get out of my yard! The protocol is expired! (...) You have nothing to do inside! You come with a contract that expired two years ago?!" Godei shouts at the CLR team.

Genuinely concerned for their safety, the CLR monitors start a recording on one of their mobile phones.



Frightened by the shouts of the imposing man in front of them, who was insistently asking them to leave the yard, the CLR team calls 112 and summons the police, complaining that they are not allowed access for the unannounced visit they are entitled to, according to the protocol which, for Godei, is expired.

In a few tens of minutes, a police car appears in front of the gate. The crew from the Ilfov County Police Department tries to mediate the conflict, but the police officer is overwhelmed by the situation and cannot find on-the-spot arguments to convince Godei to allow the CLR monitors access to the center.

After more than two hours of negotiations, the CLR team leaves without gathering much information from the more than 30 people kept here.

However, the police officer records the situation and registers the complaint from CLR, which denounces the fact that they are not allowed to do their job. He also receives a few other complaints from the bravest of the beneficiaries, who claim that they are there against their will and that they do not want to stay in this center which, they say, does not provide humane conditions.

On the morning of Monday, October 24, 2022, Silviu Duță, a young beneficiary of the center, aged 37, with mental retardation and epilepsy, wakes up with blood in his mouth. He has been in agony for a few days; the doctor had seen him the previous week and noted that his condition was not good at all. He could no longer swallow anything, not even pills. A dreadful illness is about to claim his life.

A few hours later, towards the evening, the young man dies.

A week later, on November 1, the CLR monitors appear again at the gate of the house in Afumați. They present a **brand-new protocol**, freshly concluded with the Monitoring Council, the state institution that should do exactly what they are doing, namely to check, unexpectedly, if the rights of those in such centers are respected.

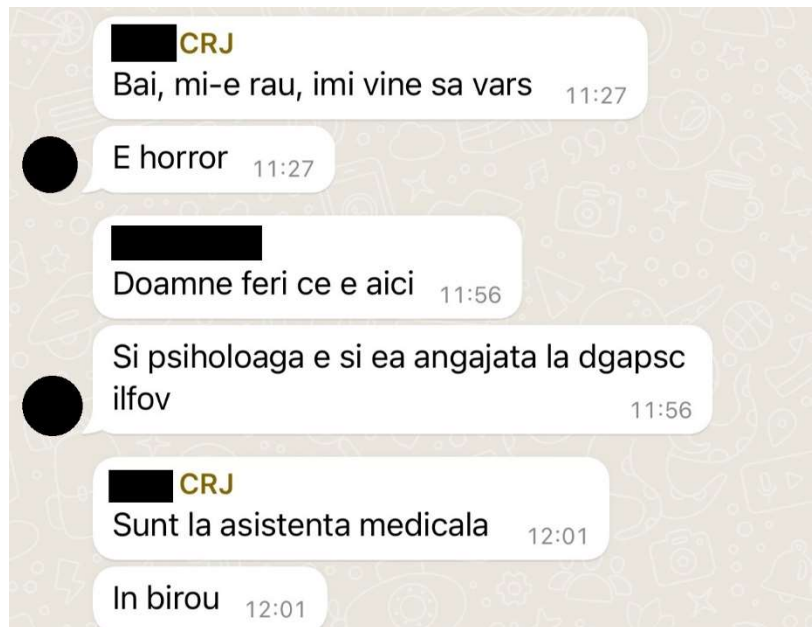
After a few minutes of negotiations with the nurse on duty, they are allowed access, but only after Ștefan Godei, the head of the place, arrives at the center to carefully check the new protocol, and also the police, called again by CLR, because once again their access is not allowed, at least initially.

The reason now invoked by Ștefan Godei, who had seen on the surveillance cameras from a distance that the CLR team is again at the gate? "Until the other complaints are resolved, no one enters the center!" Godei conveyed through the employee beyond the fence, the CLR activists recount.

What Is Ștefan Godei Hiding After All?

From the moment the CLR monitors step into the center - because they eventually manage to get in - they are literally hit by a strong smell of feces and urine.

"The entire center had a strong smell of feces and urine. (..) Both inside and even in the yard, a disgusting smell of urine predominates, which penetrates everywhere", the CLR monitors write in their visit report.



11:27 Yo, I feel sick, I need to puke

11:27 It's horror

11:56 Oh my God, what is this

11:56 The psychologist is also an employee of DGAPSC ILFOV

12:01 I am with the nurse

12:01 In the office

This is the smell in which the 32 people are forced to wake up and go to sleep, day after day.

Immediately after overcoming the shock of the pungent smell, the CLR representatives realize that they are facing an even bigger problem: the entire center is infested with bedbugs, "and given the degree of infestation, one could conclude that the problem is an old one."



After just a glance inside the house where the beneficiaries are confined, the CLR monitors realize that the bedbug infestation is no surprise. Dampness is everywhere, and the walls are covered in mold. The two bathrooms in the center, used by all 32 people, are "extremely dirty" and do not have functioning sanitary installations.

In one of the bathrooms, the shower looks more like an improvisation, with a hose hanging from the wall fixture. In the second, the toilet does not work - the water cannot be flushed - making it terribly dirty.



This is how the beneficiaries wash themselves. Moreover, they do not receive basic personal hygiene products, such as toilet paper, towels, or soap. The employees in the center claim that these are provided only upon request, yet CLR did not identify any place where personal hygiene products would be stored.

The situation is not any better in the bedrooms. In addition to the omnipresent bedbugs swarming through walls and on mattresses, the individuals in the Armonia center sleep on dirty linens. That is in the "fortunate" cases, as some of the beneficiaries have no linens at all, sleeping directly on the infested and insect-ridden mattresses.



The "Catering" Food, Only on Paper

During the monitoring visit, the CLR team was shown a catering contract: The contract is concluded with the same company as the **Saint Gabriel the Brave Center** in Pipera, SC Mititei la Tomița.

However, the **contract** is atypical: it contains no concrete reference to any amount of money, even a minimal one, that the beneficiary, the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, commits to pay this supplier.

"It seemed strange to us because at the other center managed by Mr. Godei, the one in Pipera, we were told that some of the food is prepared here, in Afumați, and here we were told that no cooking is done, presenting us a contract with the same supplier as the other one", Georgiana Pascu told reporters after the visit to the "Armonia" Center.

Intrigued, she tried to clarify the food story, especially since it concerned not just the 32 beneficiaries here, in Afumați, but also the other 27 in Pipera.

"Something was clearly wrong: there were large quantities of food in the fridge - dozens of sausages in the fridge, meat in the freezer, a bag of potatoes, and one of onions, for example -, even though we were told that no cooking is done here for the beneficiaries, but they receive ready-made food, from catering. The explanation for those quantities of food was either that they belong to the employees, or that cooking is done, but for the employees who stay here overnight, even though we were not told that there are people working here overnight...", Pascu recounts.



Moreover, it was already past 1:00 PM, and the "catering" had not arrived, although lunch was scheduled, on paper, for 12:30 PM.

"Around 1:30 PM, in the dirty kitchen on the ground floor of the center, which CLR had previously visited, two pots of food appeared, without anyone having entered the center's gate. We were told that this is the food brought by the catering company: there were two pots of soup", Pascu recounts.

The reality, however - as Georgiana Pascu would discover from face-to-face discussions with those present - was different and confirmed her suspicions.

"I found out that, in fact, the food had been cooked there. It was on the stove when we came to the gate, that's why they didn't immediately let us inside, to have time to clean the kitchen and hide the pots in a storeroom which they locked. They cook there, even though they do not have authorization for such an activity", said Georgiana Pascu, the leader of the CLR monitoring team.

Invented Saint, Invented Catering, Invented Services

Just as at the other center of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association in Pipera, at Armonia there are no specialists, even though the state pays, for half of the beneficiaries, almost 1,200 euros per month, through DGASPC Ilfov, this time.

For the other people here, either public funds are paid, but through the municipalities in the Ilfov area, or private money from families who cannot care for their elderly and send them to the nursing home. "From what was observed, it did not result that the staff would be sufficient and properly trained to manage the needs of the beneficiaries", the CLR monitors write in their visit report.

Tabel beneficiari CIAPAD ARMONIA 29.10.2022

Nr crt	Nume Prenume	Proveniență
1	M	DGASPC ILFOV
2	Sa	DGASPC ILFOV
3	Gi	DGASPC ILFOV
4	St	DGASPC ILFOV
5	Gl	DGASPC ILFOV
6	Cl	DGASPC ILFOV
7	Ca	DGASPC ILFOV
8	Io	DGASPC ILFOV
9	D	DGASPC ILFOV
10	St	DGASPC ILFOV
11	Bi	DGASPC ILFOV
12	D	DGASPC ILFOV
13	N	DGASPC ILFOV
14	G	DGASPC ILFOV
15	B	DGASPC ILFOV
16	Si	DGASPC ILFOV
17	B	FAMILIE
18	E	FAMILIE
19	M	FAMILIE
20	P	FAMILIE
21	C	FAMILIE
22	L	FAMILIE
25	N	FAMILIE
26	R	FAMILIE
27	G	FAMILIE
28	N	FAMILIE
29	P	FAMILIE
30	V	FAMILIE
31	D	PRIMARIE STEFANESTI
32	E	DGASPC ILFOV
33	G	FAMILIE
34	D	FAMILIE
35		FAMILIE
36		
37		
40		
41		
42		

During their first visit to the center, from which they could not glean much, the CLR team found only one employee taking care of all 32 beneficiaries, who, just when the CLR team entered, was cleaning the dining hall, so it was not clear exactly what their duties were.

During their second visit, in addition to the same employee, who seemed to have more of an administrative function, there was also a nurse on duty. Another lady, a social worker, came to the center shortly after she was called and informed about the CLR's visit, along with another lady, a psychologist.

"As for the contribution of the medical staff in the social care centers visited, the information provided at the time of the visit indicated that residents did not benefit from psychological services, social assistance, regular and consistent psychiatric and somatic care", the CLR monitors write in their report.

From the discussions that the CLR people had with the beneficiaries, it turned out that, in fact, they have no activities all day and that most of them have not left the center since they arrived there.

"As for the daily regimen, there was no observed range of occupational and recreational activities offered to the residents, but activities that tend to infantilize, such as drawing or songs like 'one elephant'. (...) The main part of the activity seemed to be staying in the yard or in bed", the CLR writes in their report.

„Abandon All Hope, Those of You Who Enter!”

According to the law, beneficiaries have the right to be informed and presented with various options so they can choose where they want to live. However, this did not happen for those who ended up being confined, against their will, in the center on Soseaua Urziceni, which is why they have complained repeatedly, essentially saying they want to leave for somewhere else.

"Complaints were received at the Care and Assistance Center for Adult Persons with Disabilities 'Armonia' that the head of the center is holding them against their will", states the report by the Center for Legal Resources.

However, complaints are not at all encouraged at "Armonia."

During the first visit by CLR, for example, one of the residents made a complaint to DGASPC Ilfov, right in front of the police officers called here, clearly stating that she does not want to live there.

CĂTRE: DIRECȚIA GENERALĂ DE ASISTENȚĂ SOCIALĂ
& PROTECȚIA COPILULUI ILFOV
BD. VOLUNTARI NR. 94-96, OFIȘ VOLUNTARI

ÎN ATENȚIA: MIHAI TOMESCU, PREȘEDINTE ANPD PD

STIMTE DOAMNE, STIMATI DOMNI,

SUBSEMINATA, [REDACTED] CU DOMICILIUL ÎN VOLUNTARI,
[REDACTED] SI

CNP [REDACTED] SOLICIT DEZINSTITUTIONALIZAREA
DIN CENTRUL ÎN CARE MĂ AFLU ACUM (CU ADRESA ÎN
SOS. MUCUREȘTI - URȘICENI, NR. 36A, COM. AFUMĂȚI, ILFOV)
ȘI ACORDAREA DE SERVICII DE VIAȚĂ ÎNDEPENDENTĂ ÎN
COMUNITATE CONFORM ART. 19, CONV. PĂRIND DR. PERS CU
ABILITĂȚI TĂRIȘI A LEGII NR. 448/2006 (CU SERVICII DE SPRIJIN).

ÎN SUBSTITUȚIE, SOLICIT SĂ LOCUIESC ÎN CENTRUL DIN
STR. ȘCOII NR 5, VOLUNTARI, JUDE ILFOV (ORGANIZAȚIA SA FUE DECEZI
PT. AJUTOR UMANITAR INDIVIDUAL).

VA ROG SĂ MI COMUNICĂȚI NR. DE ÎNREGISTRARE AL
PREZENTEI CERERI LA ADRESA DIN SOS MUCUREȘTI - URȘICENI
NR. 36A, COM. AFUMĂȚI, JUDE. ILFOV.

VĂ MULTUMESC

07.09.2022.

In November, during the second visit, the nurse burst out and, in front of the CLR monitors, reproached the same beneficiary, almost snapping: "All these [inspections] are happening because of you!"

At the same visit, the monitors spoke with a resident who complained to CLR that, since she was "forced" to come to this center where harmony is found only in name, she has been tied up by her hands and feet several times. "Restrained", in professional jargon. The woman now sleeps on a metal bed, directly on a mattress, without bed linen and without a pillow, covered only with a blanket. Both the mattress and the blanket were dirty and even had small, brown stains, possibly blood spots from bedbug bites.

These are the conditions faced by those who want to leave the house of Minister Firea's associates but fail.

"The living conditions at the 'Armonia' Center are degrading", conclude the CLR monitors in their report.

Degrading and Also Illegal?

To make the nightmare that people are living here complete, they ended up in the "Armonia" house due to a contract that appears to have been concluded illegally in the summer of 2021.

In the first official response received from DGASPC Ilfov to questions regarding the business with the invented saint, the director of the institution, Bogdan Iulian Pîntea, claims that the contract was awarded to the association in 2022.

Given that the document previously obtained by reporters showed that DGASPC Ilfov had given the people around the Firea-Pandele couple the contract in June 2021, clarifications were requested.

The Social Protection Directorate of Ilfov conveyed that there was a "drafting error" and confirmed that it had actually signed the contract in 2021. However, at that time, the "Saint Gabriel the Brave" Association did not have any licensed care and assistance center that could accommodate these people. Hence the suspicion of illegality, as without a license, such a center cannot operate, and the license for the Armonia Center was obtained only in July 2022, a year later.

ID	Type	Name	Location	Description	Code	Address	Phone	Sector	County	City	Population	Start Date	End Date	Status					
3.319	Privat	8418360	4	Asociația Din Orșine	Ilfov	Centru de îngrijire și Asistență pentru Persoane Adulte cu Dizabilități Din Lazareni	0790 CR-D-1	Ilfov Evrolov, nr. 124-126	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	30	12.01.2022	04.11.2022	LF-0000230	ANPOPD		
3.320	Privat	30325632	4	Asociația Dragomir House	Ilfov	Casa Bucurosi Maria	0730 CR-V-1	nr. Ecilpost, nr. 13	179533	Popești	Ilfov	Urban	81	16.09.2019	21.01.2020	LF-0000105	MMSS		
3.321	Privat	30325032	4	Asociația Dragomir House	Ilfov	Clinca pentru persoane vârstnice Casa Mădălea	0730 CR-V-1	nr. Căminul nr. 23 August, nr. 33	179183	Fălăva	Ilfov	Rural	85	16.06.2021	07.09.2021	LF-0010172	MMSS		
3.322	Privat	29664713	4	Asociația Green Ambient	Ilfov	Centru Green Ambient	0790 CR-PD-1	nr. Păcii, nr. 99	179285	Chiajna	Ilfov	Urban	49	17.10.2019	29.09.2020	LF-0000124	MMSS		
3.323	Privat	40962918	4	Asociația Help Nicolas - Andrei	Ilfov	Centrul de Terapie	0891 CZ-D-1	nr. Serg. Ion Ionescu, nr. 6, bl. 154, nr. 2, ap.56	179178	Sector 4	București	Urban	50	04.07.2022			ANPDCA		
3.324	Privat	17562902	4	Asociația Laboartă-mă Aşa Cum Sună	Ilfov	Serviciul de asistență și suport pentru persoane adulte cu dizabilități "Ema și Liga"	0899 SC-D-1	nr. Lovinzilor nr. 122	179533	Popești	Ilfov	Urban	15	01.09.2020	17.05.2021	LF-0000917	ANPOPD		
3.325	Privat	14098260	4	Asociația Mia's Children	Ilfov	Casa de tip familial "Casa Mia"	0790 CR-C-1	nr. Drumești Ilfov nr. 44 C, sat Răuți	179249	Chiajna	Ilfov	Rural	12 (16 ocupanți)	19.10.2015	29.03.2016	LF-0004086	05.12.2022	0000571.LF	ANPDCA
3.326	Privat	14098260	4	Asociația Mia's Children	Ilfov	Centrul de zi "Mia's Children"	0891 CZ-C-1	nr. Drumești Ilfov nr. 44 C, sat Răuți	179249	Chiajna	Ilfov	Rural	20	19.10.2015	29.03.2016	LF-0004087	19.10.2020	00255.LF	ANPDCA
3.327	Privat	8223100	4	Asociația Organizația Săcilor pentru Ajutor Unimilor Individuale	Ilfov	Centrul de abilitare și reabilitare pentru persoane adulte cu dizabilități "Nis"	0790 CR-D-1	nr. Secuia nr. 5	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	18	10.08.2020	09.04.2021	LF-0000845	ANPDCA		
3.328	Privat	35088499	4	Asociația Pentru Evaluare - Rotax	Ilfov	Centrul de zi Rotax	0891 CZ-C-1	nr. 1 Decembrie, nr. 1	105570	Funari	Ilfov	Rural	30	23.01.2020	19.03.2021	000005.LF	ANPDCA		
3.329	Privat	31569810	4	Asociația Pentru Îngrijire și Recuperare Vârstașilor Antimia	Ilfov	Clinica vârstnicii Antimia - casa Clinicii	0730 CR-V-1	sat Căminul nr. Monumental anul nr. 48 A	02035	Căminci	Ilfov	Rural	35	14.02.2020	10.11.2020	LF-0009134	MMSS		
3.330	Privat	8724211	4	Asociația Prietenia	Ilfov	Locuință Maxim Protecție pentru Persoane Adulte cu Dizabilități Casa Longheor	0790 CR-DV-1	nr. S.Gheorghe, nr.46	179515	Pantelimon	Ilfov	Urban	10	24.11.2021	06.09.2022	LF-0000146	ANPOPD		
3.331	Privat	8724211	4	Asociația Prietenia	Ilfov	Centrul de zi pentru Persoane Adulte cu Dizabilități Prietenia Pantelimon	0891 CZ-D-1	nr. S.Gheorghe, nr.46	179515	Pantelimon	Ilfov	Urban	18	05.02.2016	16.12.2016	LF-0005192	04.06.2021	LF-0001050	ANPOPD
3.332	Privat	32682874	4	Asociația Pentru Omuzii	Ilfov	Centrul Venus	0730 CR-D-1	nr. Răcoștea din 1907, nr. 39	179515	Pantelimon	Ilfov	Urban	14	16.10.2020	02.11.2021	LF-0010176	MMSS		
3.333	Privat	41637547	4	Asociația Sf. Gabriel cel Vănos	Ilfov	Centrul de îngrijire și Asistență "Sfântul Gabriel cel Vănos"	0790 CR-D-1	nr. Ștefan cel Mare, nr.38	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	30	14.07.2021	07.07.2022	LF-0000097	ANPOPD		
3.334	Privat	41637547	4	Asociația Sf. Gabriel cel Vănos	Ilfov	Centrul de îngrijire și Asistență pentru Persoane Adulte cu Dizabilități "Armonia"	0790 CR-D-1	nr. Soseaua București-Căpâlneni nr.16A	100434	Afumați	Ilfov	Rural	50	12.07.2022			ANPOPD		
3.335	Privat	34618384	4	Asociația Mănuși Lenina	Ilfov	Căminul de bătrâni Sfântul Ieremia	0730 CR-V-1	nr. Răcoștea, nr. 5	179515	Pantelimon	Ilfov	Urban	49	28.11.2016	05.09.2017	LF-0000200	05.05.2022	LF-0011616	MMSS
3.336	Privat	29937417	4	Asociația Sana Med	Ilfov	Centrul rezidențial de îngrijire și asistență persoane dependente Sfântul Andrei	0790 CR-PD-1	nr. Drumești Ilfov nr. 44 C, sat Răuți	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	30	07.03.2022			MMSS		
3.337	Privat	41745411	4	Asociația Spune De Viști	Ilfov	Centrul Autism Such by Step	0891 CZ-C-1	nr. Me. Ion Rașcoștea, nr. 6, pod, CP 030891	179178	Sector 4	București	Urban	20	09.02.2022			ANPDCA		
3.338	Privat	29801016	4	Asociația Șansa Ta	Ilfov	Centrul social	0899 CPD-1	Calcea Crăciun, nr. 355 - 357	179141	Sector 1	București	Urban	450	05.01.2021	11.03.2021	LF-0010153	MMSS		
3.339	Privat	29801016	4	Asociația Șansa Ta	Ilfov	Centrul de zi pentru copii "Șansa ta"	0891 CZ-D-1	nr. Dănileni, nr. 212, sat (Bărbăntari)	66401	Bărbăntari	Dâmbovița	Rural	25	06.11.2019	09.11.2021	0001357.LF	ANPDCA		
3.340	Privat	43164542	4	Asociația Tăbăc Îngrijiri la Domiciliu	Ilfov	Unitate de îngrijire la domiciliu a persoanelor vârstnice	0810 D3-D-1	nr. Me. Ion Rașcoștea, nr. 6, pod, CP 030891	179149	Sector 3	București	Urban	25/21	23.02.2022			MMSS		
3.341	Privat	43164542	4	Asociația Tăbăc Îngrijiri la Domiciliu	Ilfov	Serviciul Social de îngrijire la domiciliu pentru persoane adulte cu dizabilități	0810 D3-D-1	nr. Me. Ion Rașcoștea, nr. 6, et. 1, ap. 2	179149	Sector 3	București	Urban	25	31.03.2022			ANPOPD		
3.342	Privat	37166992	8	Balkan Medchim S.R.L.	Ilfov	Căminul pentru persoane vârstnice Raiul Ilfovilor	0730 CR-V-1	nr. Cămpului nr. 23	105570	Funari	Ilfov	Rural	38	12.12.2019	18.06.2020	LF-0009110	MMSS		
3.343	Privat	38912322	8	Relindex Limpezii Păpă și Măsa S.R.L.	Ilfov	Centru rezidențial (Bătrâneț) Limpezii Păpă și Măsa	0730 CR-V-1	nr. Evrei Ioncu Nicolae, nr. 109 A, E57, P.716	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	30	18.10.2019	30.03.2020	LF-0009109	MMSS		
3.344	Privat	36725280	8	Care Center Sf. Maria S.R.L.	Ilfov	Care Center Sf. Maria	0730 CR-V-1	bl. Pipeni, nr. 188 A-B	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	54	15.06.2020	02.02.2021	LF-0009147	MMSS		
3.345	Privat	36725280	8	Care Center Sf. Maria S.R.L.	Ilfov	Care Center S.Bona Maria Premium	0730 CR-V-1	bl. Pipeni, nr. 188 C	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	26	26.04.2022	20.10.2022	LF-0011640	MMSS		
3.346	Privat	43879276	8	Casa Amurgul Senectății S.R.L.	Ilfov	Centru rezidențial pentru persoane vârstnice Casa Amurgul Senectății	0730 CR-V-1	nr. Dragăni Vodă, nr. 2A - 2B, Păpăra	179551	Volantari	Ilfov	Urban	24	05.08.2021	20.06.2022	LF-0011623	MMSS		

Ironically, Article 5.5 of the contract stipulates that the "contracting authority", namely DGASPC Ilfov, is obliged to take back the people within 48 hours if the contract partner, the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, loses its license.

A license that the association, in fact, did not have at the time of signing the contract.

The defiance becomes total with the content of Article 6.2: "The Provider (Saint Gabriel the Brave, ed.) guarantees that it meets all legal conditions to provide the contracted social services: accreditations, authorizations, licenses."

Thus, Godei guaranteed what he did not have, then signed, and the money began to come.

Despite this, in 2022, the good cooperation between DGASPC Ilfov and the association of Minister Gabriela Firea's people takes the form of a new contract, signed on 27.04.2022. The object of the contract is the same as the first, "providing residential type social services to adult persons classified with disabilities, domiciled in Ilfov County."

The document guarantees Godei a stable income from public funds until 30.04.2023.

Moreover, through another addendum signed at the end of 2022, a few days before Christmas, the price paid per beneficiary increases from 5571 lei to 6694 lei.

That means even more money for the association that keeps dozens of sick people locked up among bedbugs and feces.

The total collusion of DGASPC Ilfov with the invented Saint Gabriel

While monitoring here, the CLR insisted that DGASPC Ilfov send a responsible employee from the relationship with these centers to see for themselves the inhumane conditions in which the beneficiaries live their days. Răzvan Țicu, the head of the service managing adult disability issues, came, saw, and said he doesn't find it serious at all.

In the opinion of Țicu, these people are better off at "Armonia" than "sleeping on the street." They have a roof over their heads, and that's enough, "all the more so as the beneficiaries have psychiatric conditions and no other options".

"He told us these things, and it really shocked us", Georgiana Pascu declared after the visit.

Why does the person from DGASPC Ilfov see reality so skewed? Perhaps also because the social worker of the center, Ramona Nicolae, is his colleague at DGASPC Ilfov, the institution that sent the center's beneficiaries there, which pays for the private "Armonia" business and which should check if those for whom it pays significant monthly amounts are treated correctly, humanely.

"Ramona Nicolae is a social worker within the Emergency Intervention Center in the field of social assistance, situations of abuse, neglect, trafficking, migration, repatriations, domestic violence, and the 'social phone' from DGASPC Ilfov, information confirmed during the visit even by her", the CLR writes in their report.

This status of Ramona Nicolae is, moreover, public: you can find her in this table at position 31.

Although she has been working at DGASPC Ilfov since 2019, Ramona Nicolae stated that she does not believe she is in any situation of incompatibility or conflict of interest.

Ramona Nicolae even had the audacity to come with the DGASPC service car to the Armonia center, once called here after the unexpected arrival of the CLR team.



Thus, it appears acceptable for someone who works for the institution supposed to monitor the activities of private partners with which the Directorate has contracts, to also work for one of the private centers it is supposed to regulate.

Or not. In the **Code of Ethics** of DGASPC Ilfov, Article 5 states that social assistance employees in Ilfov "have the legal, moral, and professional duty to ensure that they fully comply with the legal regime of conflicts of interest and incompatibilities."

The irregularities discovered by CLR but denied by DGASPC Ilfov were also reported to the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS). From the central office, the complaint was sent to the field, namely to the employees in Ilfov, the Firea-Pandele stronghold, who proceeded with the inspection.

"From the discussions held with selected beneficiaries, it results that they are satisfied with the social services provided by the residential center and have not reported any forms of abuse or exploitation", was the prompt **response from AJPIS Ilfov**.

However, CLR clearly stated in their communications to AJPIS that at least two beneficiaries, a man and a woman, expressed their desire to leave to anywhere just not to stay in the house in Afumați.

Somewhat compelled to clarify these specific cases, AJPIS Ilfov chose not to speak with the man on the grounds that he is under guardianship due to mental disorders. However, they asked the center to

discuss with his guardian, a relative who, obviously, for various reasons, conveyed that they did not want him back home.

They did speak with the woman, who maintained in front of them that she wants to leave. However, her case was quickly dismissed by AJPIS Ilfov: "the social services provided to the beneficiary (...) are subject to a convention concluded by the association (Saint Gabriel the Brave, ed.) with DGASPC Ilfov ensuring payment", and "the center's representatives have observed, over time, that the beneficiary's statements fluctuate, depending on her psychological or emotional state, showing from one day to the next changes regarding her interest in staying at the center or leaving." Under these circumstances, AJPIS Ilfov "instructed" Godei "to be informed about the resolution of the beneficiary's request."

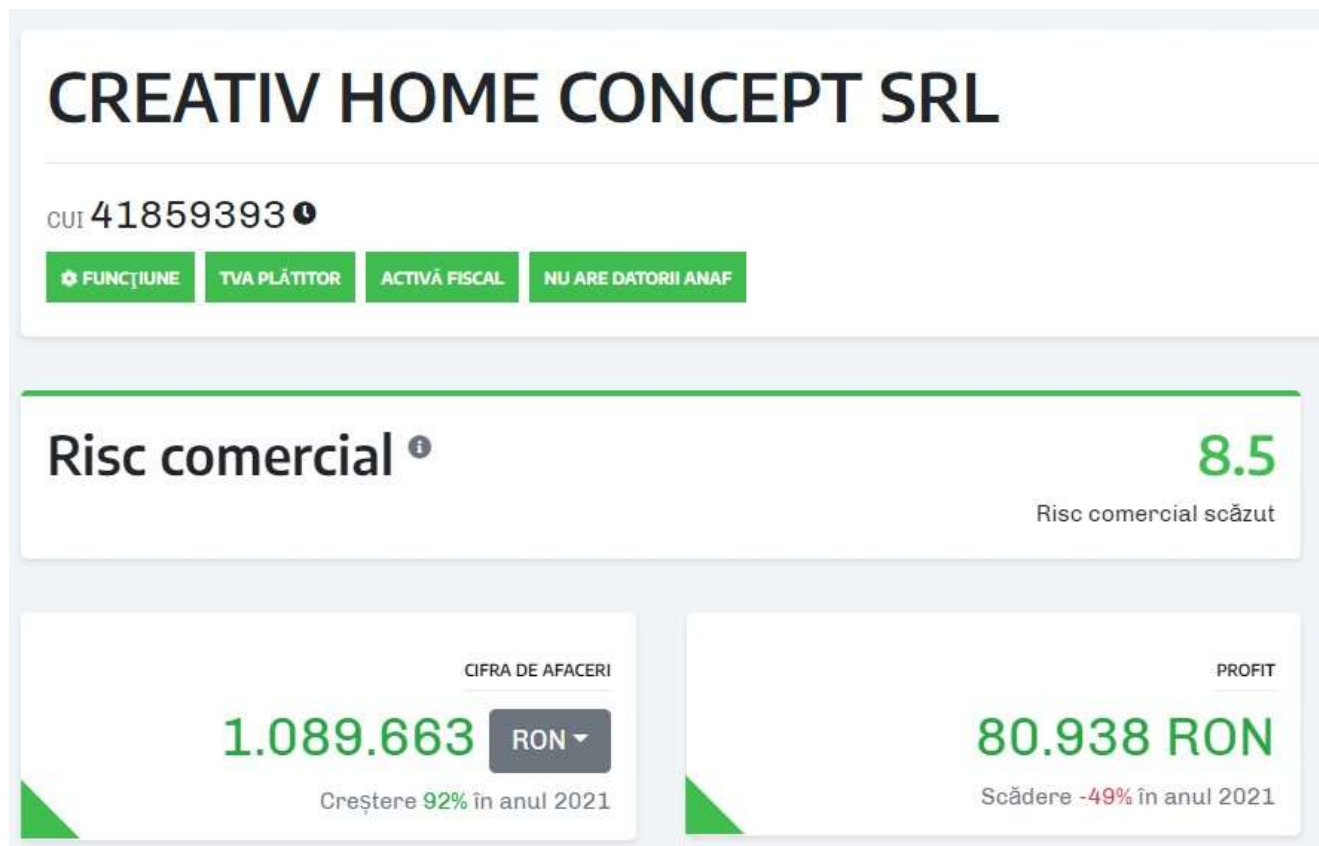
Meaning Godei, the lord of the center from which the woman wants to leave and the one who now collects, even more, 1,300 euros for her care, rather pointlessly, is also the one to decide her fate.

Piling-up Money

CIA Armonia is not the first "brand" under which this house in Afumați hosts people in need of care.

Before it was CIA Armonia, the same house operated as an elderly home called "Casa Bunicilor" (Grandparents' House). Also owned by Godei, but under a different company: Creativ Home Concept SRL.

On November 22, 2019, the company with Godei as the sole shareholder signs a contract with the owners of the house in Afumați and opens a branch there. The Creativ Home Concept business flourishes rapidly. In just three years, the sole associate Godei manages to achieve a turnover exceeding one million lei.



CREATIV HOME CONCEPT SRL
CUI 41859393

Commercial risk:	8.5 (low commercial risk)
TURNOVER:	RON 1.089.663
92% increase in 2021	
PROFIT:	RON 80.938
-49% decrease in 2021	

"From the information received, it would appear that two social services have operated or continue to operate in the same premises. Regarding the Elderly Home 'Casa Bunicilor,' it is mentioned in the registry 'Licensed homes for elderly people as of 26.07.2021 (social service code 8730 CR-V-I)', as having a functioning license valid for five years from 2021, but we do not know whether this social service provider is still operating in this premises or not", claim CLR in their report.

The information received by CIM and Buletin de București reporters from DGASPC Ilfov solves the mystery: at 36A Soseaua Urziceni, there is both an elderly home and a care and assistance center, both owned by Godei. Or at least that was the case in the spring of 2022, when DGASPC signed contracts for the provision of social services on the same day, April 27, with Creativ Home Concept SRL, the elderly home, and with the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, for CIA Armonia.

This situation - having both services mixed together - would be **"profoundly illegal and harmful for both categories of beneficiaries alike"**, asserts Georgiana Pascu from CLR in discussion with reporters.

Rich Man, Poor Man

If during the first visit of CLR to "Armonia", on September 7, Ștefan Godei descended, thundering, from a €120,000 Mercedes, during the second visit of the CLR team, on November 1, the same Godei appeared to be a different person. Dressed much more modestly and getting out of a normal car, he now seemed to play the card of a man betrayed in the partnership with DGASPC Ilfov.

All the problems found by CLR in the Armonia center, which he tried so hard to hide, are caused - he says - by the delays with which DGASPC Ilfov, his main partner here, at this second center of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, pays his bills.

"Don't bother, ma'am, with reports and complaints, because we're closing in a month anyway, since we have no money left to pay anything, DGASPC hasn't paid us for over six months", Georgiana Pascu, the leader of the CLR team, recounts what Godei supposedly told her at their second meeting.

However, the institution that pays on two contracts for the beneficiaries of the "Armonia" house blatantly contradicts him. "Payments to providers are up to date", reads an official response sent to reporters from the Center for Media Investigations (CMI) and Buletin de București by DGASPC Ilfov.

For instance, in October, precisely the month before CLR's second visit, Godei would have received almost 95 thousand lei from DGASPC. For the six months during which Godei claims to have "cared" for the beneficiaries for free, the association he leads would have actually collected almost €100,000 just for CIA Armonia. Plus, whatever he "pinched" from the elderly home.

● **Facturi Asociația Sf Gabriel cel Viteaz:**

- ✓ *Ianuarie 2022: 20,846.32 lei;*
- ✓ *Februarie 2022: 27,675.28 lei;*
- ✓ *Martie 2022 : 33,426.00 lei;*
- ✓ *Aprilie 2022: 42,231.77 lei;*
- ✓ *Mai 2022: 48,282.00 lei;*
- ✓ *Iunie 2022: 59,124.00 lei;*
- ✓ *Iulie 2022: 65,737.80 lei;*
- ✓ *August 2022: 73,141.83 lei;*
- ✓ *Septembrie 2022: 89,315.70 lei;*
- ✓ *Octombrie 2022: 94,707.00 lei;*
- ✓ *Noiembrie 2022: 93,720.20 lei.*

Gabriel the Brave Association - invoices

- ✓ January 2022: RON 20,846.32
- ✓ February 2022: RON 27,675.28
- ✓ March 2022: RON 33,426.00
- ✓ April 2022: RON 42,231.77
- ✓ May 2022: RON 48,282.00
- ✓ June 2022: RON 59,124.00
- ✓ July 2022: RON 65,737.80
- ✓ August 2022: RON 73,141.83
- ✓ September 2022: RON 89,315.70
- ✓ October 2022: RON 94,707.00
- ✓ November 2022: RON 93,720.20

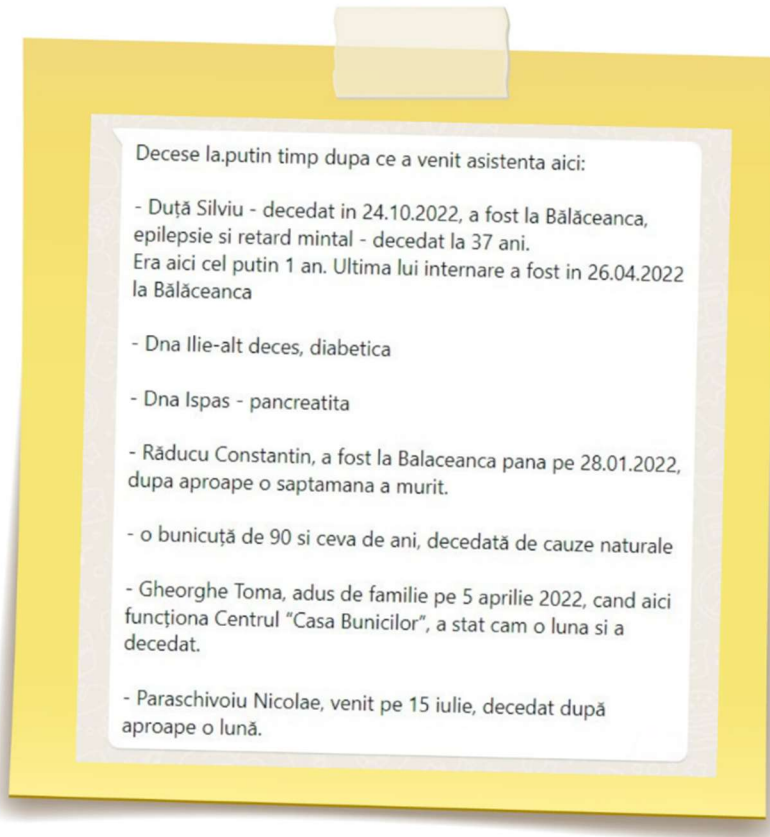
When Death Comes

In the chaos between what is on paper and the reality of the house in Afumați, there is only one certainty for those kept here, many against their will: death.

Although far from being old, at the time when the documents only registered an elderly home here, Silviu Duță, the 37-year-old man who died at the end of October 2022, was brought here, three months after CIA Armonia began to operate legally in the house from Afumați.

He was by no means the only deceased person among the beneficiaries here. CLR gathered information about several other deaths of beneficiaries from the house in Afumați, which, since 2019, in various forms, is essentially a center for disadvantaged people controlled by the association led by Ștefan Godei and Ligia Gheorghe, close associates of the Ilfov rulers, the Pandelescu-Firea couple.

Although they could not present an official statistic regarding deaths, CLR monitors reconstructed, from discussions with employees, a list of seven other beneficiaries who died just in the last year.



Deaths occurring shortly after the arrival of the nurse at the location include:

- Duță Silviu - passed away on 24.10.2022, previously at Bălăceanca, had epilepsy and mental retard - died at the age of 37. He had been here for at least 1 year. His last hospitalization was on 26.04.2022 at Bălăceanca.
- Mrs. Ilie - another death, diabetic.
- Mrs. Ispas - died of pancreatitis.
- Raducu Constantin - was at Bălăceanca until 28.01.2022, died almost a week later.
- A grandmother in her 90s, died of natural causes.
- Gheorghe Toma - brought in by his family on 5 April 2022, when the "Casa Bunicilor" Center was operational, stayed for about a month and then passed away.
- Paraschivoiu Nicolae - arrived on 15 July, died after almost a month.

It is unclear how many people died in the house in Afumați when it was an elderly home and how many after it also became a Care and Assistance Center (CIA) for people with disabilities.

"The essential point is the considerable number of deaths that occurred in this center and the fact that, from the information received, it does not appear that these were notified to the competent authorities, even though the causes of these deaths warranted notification", CLR claims in their visit report.

Reactions. Or, More Precisely, Non-Reactions

We called Ștefan Godei, the president of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, to find out details about the activity of CIA Armonia. He did not answer, but called back a few minutes later. When the

reporter identified himself and explained what he wanted to know from him, Godei excused himself, impatiently, saying that he is "at the hospital with his child", then hung up.

A few minutes later, Godei called again on the mobile phone he had spoken with the reporter just a few minutes earlier. He quickly realized he had called a different number than he intended and hung up. He was in a car, judging by the background noise during the few seconds this second call lasted. We tried again, but he did not answer anymore.

His brother, Dan Godei, is formally the head of CIA Armonia. We called him, he answered, but after we introduced ourselves and stated our purpose, he excused himself saying he had just gotten home and was having dinner with his family, then he too hung up. We tried calling him back as well, but he did not answer anymore.

Ligia Gheorghe, the perennial right hand of the Minister of Equal Opportunities Gabriela Firea and vice-president of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association operating CIA Armonia, did not answer her phone. A message was sent to her on WhatsApp informing her of the desire to discuss the activities of this center. She responded, through a message, with exactly the same words that were conveyed a week ago by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Equal Opportunities, where Ligia Gheorghe is an advisor to Minister Gabriela Firea: "I resigned from my position as vice-president of the Board of Directors of the association in March 2022. I specify that it was an unpaid position."

A follow-up message was sent, mentioning that resignations from the director committee of associations must be validated by a court, as they represent changes to the founding documents. She was asked for the court decision number through which her resignation was confirmed.

Ligia Gheorghe replied, stating that she does not consider herself responsible for how the association "acted in this case."

"What I know for sure is that I resigned, as I told you", Ligia Gheorghe concluded in her message, without being able to present the court decision. Without it, her resignation, even if formally recorded by the organization, would not hold more value than the piece of paper it is written on.

A week ago, reporters from CIM and Buletin de București published an investigation regarding another center operated by the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association. Faced with the same response now from Ligia Gheorghe, after consulting a lawyer, it was reported that a check was made to see if Ligia Gheorghe truly resigned from her leadership position in the association. A court process was found on the court portal through which the association indeed requested a modification of the founding document in February 2022 (not in March, as Ligia Gheorghe now claims). However, upon examining the decision, it was realized that it only concerned a change of the association's address, with no mention of any changes to the initial board of directors' composition, with Ligia Gheorghe as vice-president.

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