



Equal opportunities managed from the "Saint Gabriela the Brave" Government, a golden business on public money for her close relations

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In 2012, under pressure from Europe, the Romanian State was forced to remove people with physical and mental disabilities from the nursing homes for which Romania had become world-famous in the early years after the Revolution. Gradually, in a process that began then and is still ongoing, people have ended up in sheltered housing or small residential centers in the community.

This is how a new business emerged and flourished: the trade in very sick, and therefore defenseless, people. At the expense of the State, still obliged to pay good money for their care.

From one of the biggest slices of the budget, that for social assistance, the State has ended up paying large sums for the accommodation, meals and care of each and every disabled person, whether they live with a family or are under care in a state or private center.

The more serious the diagnosis, the higher the amount from the State. It reaches up to one thousand five hundred euros in the most severe cases.

"Social service providers' have taken the place of nursing homes: NGOs or companies that take care of people on behalf of the State, receiving money in exchange for accommodation, feeding, and treatment aimed at improving their condition, or at least stopping their decline. When money stays in the pockets of businessmen and doesn't help people, the social service becomes a money-making factory.

The circle is simple: the heads of the institutions that "provide" people and money to the "centers" are also the first ones who should check the conditions in which the sick are cared for. But they don't. In this quid pro quo mechanism, money circulates, and people - defenseless, some without civil rights and without families - wither and die. Then others come. And so on.

On November 24, 2020, in a studio in Voluntari, an NGO with an invented saint's name was established: the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association.

Among the first members of the organization, we find Ligia Gheorghe (formerly Enache), a longtime friend of Gabriela Firea, former producer of her shows in Antena, advisor to the mayor, senator, and then the Minister of Equality of Opportunities Gabriela Firea.

At the end of September, Firea had lost the mayorship of the Capital city, and she became a senator in early December. Her eternal advisor Ligia was, practically, between jobs at that time, although, according to her CV, starting with November 2020 to July 2021, she was employed at Metropola TV, the television of the Voluntari City Hall, led by Ilfov eternal mayor, Florentin Pandeale, the husband of Gabriela Firea.

Alongside her, the association also includes Ecaterina Adriana Voicu, appointed by Mayor Firea in 2017 as head of the Bucharest Youth Centre, as well as her life partner, Stefan Godei, former boss of Ilfov social-democratic youth and a sort of bodyguard of Gabriela Firea.

The purpose of the organization chaired by Godei, according to its founding documents, is "improving the quality of life" and "fighting against the disappearance of life."

This is in the abstract because, even though it doesn't exist, Saint Gabriel the Brave descends and begins to generate money for its associates: The NGO has set up two centers where it has taken into care the most severely challenged adults, those with severe mental as well as physical disabilities. And it receives a lot of public funds monthly from the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) Ilfov and District 3.

That is, from the state officials in Ilfov, the stronghold of the Firea-Pandeale couple, and also from those under the authority of the Firea-Pandeale couple's godson, Robert Negoită.

People wither away and die, and the money keeps flowing. When problems arise, no state employee seems to see them.

We've seen them.

"He was Viși!"

It's Thursday, November 11, 2021, and an ambulance disrupts the quietness of the residents on Stefan cel Mare Street in Pipera, Voluntari, with its sirens.

It abruptly stops in front of the house at number 38. There is nothing written on the gate; you could think it's just another villa in the "fancy" neighborhood on the outskirts of Bucharest.

The crew quickly lowers the stretcher and rushes into the yard, then into the house. After a few minutes, they come out and go back into the car with a stretcher on which a young man lies inert. It is Gabriel Gheorghe, nicknamed "Viși," a young man who spent his entire life in Bucharest orphanages, and later, as an adult with severe mental disabilities, went through almost all of the State's centers.



Viși had just had a crisis. He fell on his back and hit his head badly. The ambulance took him to Floreasca Hospital, but nobody could do anything for him.

He died a few hours later. He was 35.

"How did Viși die? Oh, when did he die? He used to jump all day; when he was happy, he did it like this...", Lili Covaci recalls with sadness, imitating the boy, a psychologist and behavioral therapist who worked with Viși in the past.

It is September 7, 2022, and Lili Covaci is part of the team from the Center for Legal Resources Legal Resources Center (CLR) on an unannounced monitoring visit to the "Saint Gabriel the Brave" center at number 38 on Stefan cel Mare Street in Pipera.

Viși is one of the young people Lili took care of many years ago when she worked at the former Neuropsychomotor Recovery Center "Marin Pazon" in District 3, which has since been closed. Most of them are now beneficiaries of the services provided by the "Saint Gabriel the Brave" Center in Pipera.

The other "children", as Lili calls them, recognize her, even though many years have passed since they last saw each other. Somewhat hard to believe for people with serious medical issues. To help them remember her, Lili Covaci tells them the magic word: „McDonald’s”.

"I used to bring them McDonald's periodically, especially when they were well-behaved and cooperative," shares the psychologist with reporters from CIM and Buletin de București after the visit to the center in Pipera.

A beautiful prison

Unfortunately, Lili Covaci and her colleagues, who came to monitor the center in Pipera, quickly realize that beyond the fact that the house is relatively clean, the condition of these people has not improved at all, a sign that they are not receiving the services the State pays for.

"This looks like a beautiful prison you have here. It's clean, indeed, but where are the social services?" Georgiana Pascu, program manager at CLR, asked the two individuals - a social worker and a nurse - who were taking care of the nearly 30 people on the day her team went to monitor the center.

The formal conclusions of the CLR monitoring at the Saint Gabriel the Brave center in September 2022, however, reveal a much worse situation in detail.

And the conclusions of the CLR activists are reinforced by officials of the Romanian State, namely a team from the National Authority for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (ANPDPD), which visited and monitored the center just a few days before the NGO representatives arrived.

According to the two monitoring reports (CLR and ANPDPD) obtained by reporters from the Center for Media Investigations and Buletin de București, the center is, in fact, a two-story and attic villa where 27 people with severe health problems live. For their care, DGASPC District 3 pays over 30,000 euros per month. The money goes to the association with the invented saint's name, which, in turn, pays a monthly rent of 3,500 euros for the hundreds of square meters of the house, plus a generous courtyard.



And that's pretty much all that actually exists behind the name of the "Saint Gabriel the Brave" Center for Care and Assistance (CIA) here. The rest is just a formality, only on paper.

Out of the over 30,000 euros that enter monthly from the State into the pocket of Gabriela Firea's close associates, only four thousand lei, which is less than a thousand euros, end up being spent on medical, psychiatric, and psychological services, as revealed in documents obtained by reporters from CIM and Buletin de București. That is, 2,7% of the total amount received covers some essential services, considering that all 27 beneficiaries are individuals with severe or profound disabilities and mental impairments, meaning people who need quasi-continuous medical supervision.

And this is evident both in the condition of the beneficiaries and in the documents.

The ANPDPD inspection took place, according to the report, in the last week of August 2022, and the latest entries in the family doctor's observation sheets are from the spring. Since then, the health condition of the beneficiaries has been assessed only in emergency situations when the ambulance was called.

The ANPDPD team observed such an episode of self-aggression by a beneficiary during the inspection. In the absence of specialists to intervene immediately, the staff called 112, and the Ambulance and the Police arrived immediately at the center.



Another example reported by ANPDPD in their report is the case of a beneficiary who, in August, "had multiple episodes of agitation, screamed, banged her head on the floor, pulled her hair, and took off her clothes." In this case, "an attempt was made to calm her down", after which "emergency services were called."

Another event, on March 9, was also resolved with "specialized emergency assistance" because a beneficiary was aggressive with his roommate, "threw him out of bed, hit each other over old wounds, and injured themselves."

"It's an interesting trick with the ambulance, but it's actually an abuse. The ambulance comes for free when called, and the staff practically call the ambulance for anything. We've observed situations where they called for an ambulance for a skin rash in a beneficiary, for example. It should be illegal to use the free services of the ambulance to compensate for the work of doctors whom you choose not to pay," argues Georgiana Pascu, the leader of the monitoring team at CLR, in a discussion with reporters.

"As the family doctor had not provided consultations to the center's beneficiaries since spring, they (the beneficiaries) received medical assistance only through the emergency medical service," unequivocally states the ANPDPD representatives in the cited report.

A case of slow certain death

The lack of basic medical care is obvious even in documents.

ANPDPD inspectors identified the case of a 69-year-old beneficiary who underwent lung cancer surgery in 2019 and, since being brought to this center, has never been examined or assessed, even though both the specialist and the family doctor have evidently recommended periodic check-ups and tests.

About the same beneficiary, in a note from his file dated March 2022, the center's staff wrote that he refused treatment: Symbicort (inhaler). In another subsequent note, it is specified that the beneficiary "does not have treatment." When asked during the ANPDPD inspection why he refused treatment, the man replied that he did not have the money to buy it.

A bottle of Symbicort Turbuhaler, which according to the prospectus lasts at least one month for an adult, costs 70 lei. For the care of this patient, the center receives from the state, through DGASPC District 3, exactly 5,571 lei monthly.

The same beneficiary, according to medical records, suffers from diabetes. The employees on duty at the time of the ANPDPD inspection had prepared breakfast for everyone, including tea and biscuits with cream. Even for him, as neither the nurses nor the medical assistant knew, according to the report, that the man needed a special diet.

Anti-vaccination doctors, absent or not present at all

The center's manager, Ștefan Godei, explained to the ANPDPD inspectors that the family medicine company with which he had a contract, GIMED SRL, unilaterally terminated the contract "several months ago." For this reason, his beneficiaries have not been seen by any doctor for several months. His center is in "negotiations" with another potential provider. According to a contract obtained by reporters, GIMED SRL received one thousand lei monthly for the care of the 27 beneficiaries of the center.

Even the physiotherapist - essential for people in this medical condition - has not come to work for several months, according to Godei, who claims that he is "about to terminate his employment contract."

The psychologist has also started to be absent. According to the ANPDPD report, "some beneficiaries stated that the psychologist provided counseling and psychological support a few weeks ago on Saturdays, but has not come since." At the time of the visit - as Godei told the ANPDPD team - the psychologist was on vacation.

The psychology office that the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association collaborated with until November 2022 belongs to Antoaneta Camelia Preda. The monthly amount her psychology office received was 1,500 lei.

Preda had connections with District 3, just like the beneficiaries living in the house in Voluntari: until the end of October 2021, she was the head of the "Pistruiatul" Services Complex administered by the Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, District 3. She had been working for DGASPC S3 since 2010 when she was the head of the Service Complex for Juvenile Delinquents.

The psychiatrist, on the other hand, visits the center twice a month and also receives 1,500 lei. According to ANPDPD, the medical assistant maintains a relationship with the psychiatrist and receives therapeutic instructions from him over the phone.

The psychiatrist in question is Matei Iorgu Dragoș. According to the Imuno Medica clinic's website, where he works, he has almost ten years of experience in medicine. "His medical and scientific training is

complemented by spiritual and theological education, also being a graduate of the Faculty of Orthodox Theology 'Justinian Patriarch,' in Bucharest."

Imuno Medica clinic is owned by businessman George Becali, and from 2017 to 2018, psychiatrist Matei was the administrator of the company. Starting in 2019, Becali's clinic came under public scrutiny after Libertatea reported on scientifically unproven treatments it provided.

For example, in 2019, one of the available remedies at Imuno Medica was mistletoe therapy for cancer patients. "Total hyperthermia means inducing a fever throughout the body in the hope that it will destroy cancer cells. Nowhere in the world do doctors treat cancer like this because there is no evidence that this therapy would work," reported Libertatea at the time.

Moreover, during the pandemic, the same news outlet discovered that Imuno Medica published on its website a treatment and/or prevention plan for COVID-19 with controversial drugs such as Ivermectin, Arbidol, and Plaquenil, as well as gargling with plum brandy. This plan was created by theologian Virgiliu Gheorghe, co-owner of the clinic, a promoter of pseudomedicine, and an advocate of the anti-vaccine movement.

The opinions of the psychiatrist treating the beneficiaries in Voluntari do not differ significantly from those of his bosses at Imuno Medica. He is one of the doctors who signed the rejection of the vaccination law project because "there is no consensus in medicine regarding the safety and efficacy of vaccines."

The remaining employees, few and unprepared

Beyond the "outsourced" services, more on paper than in practice, the center lacks sufficient staff.

Besides the fact that doctors rarely visit the Gabriel the Brave center, the personnel responsible for the care of the 27 beneficiaries with serious mental health problems is insufficient.

According to the Regulation of Organization and Functioning (ROF), the Gabriel the Brave Center should operate with a staff of 27 positions, likely the basis on which it received a lucrative contract from DGASPC 3.

In reality, there are only a few employees: four plus the owner. Only four people are responsible for the care of the 27 individuals with absolutely special needs: two nurses, a social worker, and a general medical assistant. Additionally, one of the beneficiaries, in a much better medical condition than the others, has a volunteer contract for the position of nurse, receiving housing and meals from Saint Gabriel the Brave in exchange for his services.

There are only two nurses, although there are 13 on paper. There is only one medical assistant, although there should be four.



The professional quality of the employees seems to be even more disastrous than their insufficient number. ANPDPD states that "no documents have been identified to attest to the employees' participation in training." In the contract with DGASPC S3, the association committed to qualifying the personnel and ensuring the necessary human resources, which did not happen.

And this ultimately directly affects the beneficiaries, who practically have no one to help improve their condition.



"Individuals under care at the time of the visit did not benefit from specific maintenance/skill maintenance interventions. Although activities such as painting, modeling, drawing, and gardening are checked as performed in a document titled 'Monitoring/Functional Empowerment of Beneficiaries,' beneficiaries with whom discussions were possible stated that such activities were not carried out. Socialization/recreational activities (watching TV programs, going out into the yard) were the only activities taking place at the time of the visit," write ANPDPD inspectors.

The "rigid regime" to which the beneficiaries at the Saint Gabriel the Brave Center are subjected was also noted by CLR team. Most residents spend their time either watching TV or in the unarranged backyard, weather permitting.

Those who go outside have access to "only a two-seater indoor sofa, in an advanced state of degradation."

The green space that beneficiaries could enjoy is neglected, more of a safety hazard for them than a relaxing place. According to ANPDPD, certain elements in the center's yard, such as electrical cables or rose bushes grown over the walkway, "pose an increased risk of accidents."



Inside is no better. Some people sleep in the living room on mattresses that they themselves carried and spread on the floor.

"Beneficiaries sleep grouped together due to a lack of supervision and care personnel", the same report states, emphasizing this lack of personnel as a recurring theme, resulting in an obvious lack of care for those institutionalized here.

Another thing lacking for those sleeping on the ground floor in the living room is bathrooms. Although there are two sanitary groups, both are locked and can only be used by the staff.

Employees of the center, on the other hand, claim that eight of them, men and women with severe mental conditions, would sleep in the basement.



According to CLR, in the basement, the windows are very narrow, so the beneficiaries living there do not have enough light or fresh air, as they should. This is in cases where they can be considered "lucky." There are rooms that don't even have a window, no matter how narrow it might be.

"Three of the residents in the basement lived in the hallway, with only one assigned bed, without pillows, with dirty bedding, without a nightstand or wardrobe, without personal belongings," CLR notes.

What actually happens in the basement? One woman "cried as she recounted being locked in the isolation room in the basement of the building, where she was left in the dark for a longer time." She asked the inspectors from ANPDPD not to tell the center's managers what she talked to them about, fearing that she would end up in the dark again, "when she does something else stupid."

"Following this incident, (the woman, ed.) has panic episodes and nightmares at night," the ANPDPD reporters write.

Several women from the center have confirmed the girl's version, the report states, but all are afraid of repercussions and do not want to talk about what happened to the management. Even if they wanted to file a complaint, the residents told CLR activists that they do not have access to paper and writing tools to submit reports or complaints. And anyway, complaints go directly to the center's management.

Why was the beneficiary locked in the basement? Because she became violent as she was not allowed to have sexual relations with an "alleged boyfriend," also a beneficiary of the center.

Or at least that's how the staff justified the abuse.

Locking people in isolation is actually illegal. The only one who can decide on this measure is the psychiatrist, not the staff - the unqualified staff - of the center. Furthermore, CLR team notes that even if it were legal, the basement isolation room still operates under improper conditions – only tiled flooring, without any other furniture, with a hole a few square centimeters in the wall instead of a window.



The primary objective of those who should take care of these people seems "to be isolation, maintaining order, and attempting to satisfy only the basic needs of the residents at a minimal level," conclude CLR activists.

The State pays well for fiction

The almost identical findings of the ANPDPD and CLR teams reveal a harsh reality: despite the state paying significant amounts of money monthly for the care of these people, this money does not translate into medical services or activities intended to ultimately improve their condition.



"From the documents prepared by the center's social worker, there is no indication of the evolution or stagnation of the beneficiaries' condition over time. Consequently, following a basic evaluation, the real needs of the beneficiaries cannot be identified, based on which the necessary services could subsequently be provided," the representatives of ANPDPD conclude in the control report.

However, things appear completely different, almost fairy-tale-like, in the reports that the association submits monthly to DGASPC District 3 to receive their funds.

"The social worker compiles a monthly activity report that is submitted to DGASPC District 3 for the reimbursement of the provided services. (...) According to the findings, the activity reports are similar in content, largely formal, and in many cases, do not take into account the actual situation of the beneficiaries," ANPDPD team writes.

"In these documents, which it seems evident that no one from DGASPC District 3 reads before paying for the services of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, we find outright lies.

An example: from the activity report 989 dated August 28, 2022, we learn that a 73-year-old beneficiary with severe mobility problems, unable to leave the room, 'was involved in sports activities within the center.'

"These reports list activities such as dance therapy, movement, sports activities, artistic activities, occupational therapy, but the majority of beneficiaries either do not wish or cannot participate. The proposed activities remain the same: recreational activities, walks in the center and its courtyard, strengthening autonomy skills, music therapy, motor exercises," ANPDPD representatives write.

"Indeed, the main part of the activity seemed to be staying in the courtyard or in bed,' is also mentioned in the CLR report, and the majority of beneficiaries have not left the center since their arrival." "The possibilities of going to the market, the store, on the street, in parks, or on recreational trips outside the centers did not exist."

Apart from writing fairy tales in the reimbursement papers, the social worker seems professionally overwhelmed. "The discussions revealed that the social worker confused the provision and monitoring of services, which indicates a lack of knowledge of applicable legislation and an inefficient use of tools," ANPDPD representatives' state.

The chaos in DGASPC 3

No one in the 'binomial' DGASPC District 3 - Saint Gabriel the Brave Association actually takes care of these people, who have become real 'fixed assets' through the trading of which substantial amounts of money move from the State to the people behind the association with the saintly name that doesn't exist.

The institution funding the association of Firea's people, DGASPC S3, is under the subordination of District 3 City Hall, led by Robert Negoită.



"A strong community is a supportive community. That is why providing social services remains a priority and distinct direction of the action of the 3rd District City hall.

Signature: Robert Negoită"

"He has a close relationship with Gabriela Firea: in 2014, Firea and Florentin Pandele became the godparents of Negoită's child. 'Happy birthday with lots of health and happiness to our godchildren

Sorina and Robert Negoită! May they enjoy their son Vladut and may they bring more little siblings," Firea wrote on Facebook the same year.



"The entire collaboration between the institution subordinated to Gabriela Firea's godson and the NGO of her associates was carried out without transparency: the auction was not published on the SEAP auction platform, so there is no information available about how many and what other offers were submitted. The only available document is the set of specifications, posted on the institution's website. <https://dgaspc3.ro/wp-content/uploads/CAIET-DE-SARCINI-1.pdf>

There is even a framework contract that confirms the cynicism, concluded on October 4, 2021.

Furthermore, the individuals entrusted by DGASPC 3 to the care of Saint Gabriel the Brave represent "lot V" out of six in the specifications, while in the contract published on the website it is "lot IV". In the bid opening sheet, however, the lot won by Saint Gabriel the Brave is actually lot I. <https://dgaspc3.ro/wp-content/uploads/SPDE102021092809010.pdf>

We find nothing about the other "lots" of people auctioned by DGASPC3 and who they ended up under the care of. Neither on the institution's website nor on SEAP." Only from that "bid opening sheet" do we understand that another "lot" of people, referred to as "lot II," ends up under the care of the Romantic Club Elderly Home Association.

We officially requested the contracts, but the official response—more like a joke and only on the second attempt—was that they are all on the website.

6. Vă rog să-mi puneți la dispoziție copii ale contractelor cu furnizorii privați de bunuri și servicii pentru hrană/întreținerea/îngrijirea sănătății persoanelor cu dizabilități din toate centrele identificate mai sus, precum și facturile plătite în cadrul acestor contracte de achiziție în care instituția dumneavoastră este parte.

La nivelul DGASPC Sector 3 toate contractele de achiziție publică sunt postate pe pagina web a instituției <https://dgaspc3.ro/transparența-institutionala/contracte/>.

False. On the institution's website, only one contract can be found, the third subsequent one, concluded by DGASPC 3 with the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association. No trace of the framework agreement or the other subsequent contracts.

Anexa nr. 1 la contractul
subsecvent nr. 3

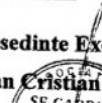
Lot	DENUMIRE LOT	CPV	Nr. beneficiari	Tarif /beneficiar / lună lei fără TVA	Valoare totală lei fără TVA
4	Persoane adulte cu handicap dependente parțial/integral cu dizabilități psihice, mentale, asociate, încadrate în grad de handicap accentuat sau grav care necesită îngrijire și supraveghere în centre tip CIA	85311200-4	25	5.571,00 lei/lună	1.114.200,00 lei

**DIRECȚIA GENERALĂ DE ASISTENȚĂ
SOCIALĂ ȘI PROTECȚIA COPILULUI SECTOR
3**
Director General,
Mihaela UNGUREANU



**ASOCIAȚIA SFÂNTUL GABRIEL CEL
VITEAZ**

Presedinte Executiv,
Ștefan Cristian GODEI



Annex no. 1 to the subsequent contract no. 3					
Lot	Lot name	CPV	No. of beneficiaries	Fee/beneficiary/month Lei, VAT excluded	Total value Lei, VAT excluded
4	Partially/entirely dependent adults with mental, mental, associated, severe or severe disabilities requiring care and supervision in CIA-type centers	85311200-4	25	5,571.00 Lei/month	1,114,200.00 lei
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND CHILD PROTECTION DISTRICT 3 General Manager Mihaela UNGUREANU <i>Illegible signature</i> <i>Round stamp</i>			SAINT GABRIEL THE BRAVE ASSOCIATION Chief Executive Officer, Ștefan Cristian GODEI <i>Illegible signature</i> <i>Round stamp</i>		

Thrown back and forth

In a discussion with the social worker from the Pipera center, Vasile Saulea, a member of the CLR monitoring team and a sociologist, concludes that people are passed from DGASPC to the center like sheep, by number.

The social worker at the center, Andreea Cărăulașu, the one found unprepared by ANPDPD, also admits in discussions with CLR team that she knows absolutely nothing about some of the beneficiaries before they enter the gate. Moreover, for some, she doesn't even have a file to know their medical or therapeutic needs.

"They just show up at the gate," says the social worker, usually after receiving a call from President Godei, who informs her that another beneficiary will be coming. "Many times, we don't even know if it's a woman or a man coming," continues the social worker, confessing that she cannot insist at DGASPC 3 so that employees eventually do the job they are paid for.

In turn, beneficiaries do not know in advance where they are going, so they wake up one day in a new house without giving their consent and without having a say in their future.

For them, individuals suffering from severe psychiatric disorders, such sudden relocations can have an immensely negative impact. "They become aggressive because they don't know what's happening to them; they are scared," as stated by Lili Covaci.

Some of the individuals who spoke with CLR representatives during the monitoring visit mentioned that they do not know the reason they live in the respective center, would like to leave, and were not asked if they wanted to live there. "The procedure by which beneficiaries ended up in these centers was non-transparent," confirmed also by the CLR team.

In addition, many of these people do not even have a case manager, an essential position in the field of social assistance, as this is the person who actually monitors how a vulnerable and dependent person like these individuals is cared for. The case manager should be appointed by DGASPC S3, the institution responsible for monitoring individuals sent to the center.

"They told us they don't have enough staff and that they might end up appointing our beneficiaries who currently do not have a case manager," the social worker told the CLR team.

DGASPC S3 told the same thing to ANPDPD auditors: "they face a lack of specialized personnel and organize competitions for vacant positions."

The last announcement for filling case manager positions was published by DGASPC District 3 at the end of August 2022, but no one ended up occupying such a position.

The collusion between Negoită's people and the Firea-Pandele couple

We asked Negoită's subordinates if and when they checked their partners to whom they entrusted people and what conclusions they drew from the verifications. We found out that even DGASPC District 3 officials conducted checks, among other places, at the Pipera Center of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association. The visit took place on May 11, 2022.

"As a result of the (unannounced) visits, it was found that beneficiaries are provided with the appropriate social services, according to the Minimum Quality Standards," Negoită's team stated in the quoted response.

A few months later, in August, ANPDPD representatives—and then CLR representatives in September—discovered a completely different reality. For example, in their conclusions, the ANPDPD explicitly states that the absolute lack of staff "violates the provisions of Decision No. 426/2020 approving the cost standards for social services, according to which the staff ratio for specialized care and assistance for individuals with disabilities in an Integrated Care Center (CIA) should be 1/1.20."

Furthermore, among the main recommendations following the monitoring visit, the ANPDPD control team advises Stefan Godei, the president of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, to quickly complete the center's staffing chart to comply with the Organization and Functioning Regulation. In other words, they recommend hiring up to 27 people, considering there are currently only four.

On the other hand, after operating as a social service provider based on the provisional license – the maximum period according to the law – the association was audited to obtain its definitive license, valid for five years. The law provides the following: after authorizing your NGO as a social service provider (a formality, similar to activating a NACE code for a company), you operate on a provisional license for the social service, for the center you open. The provisional license, often granted based on affidavits, is followed by an inspection, and finally, the organization receives a "definitive" or "normal" license, valid for five years.

Two inspectors from the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS), Ilfov branch, Andrieș Alina Mihaela and Năstase Andrei Cornel, visited the center in Pipera to assess the living conditions and services provided to the residents.

Their visit took place at the end of May 2022. Comparing the conclusions of the AJPIS Ilfov inspectors with those of the team of three employees from ANPDPD, it seems as if they are describing two completely different centers, although both teams are evidently referring to the same Integrated Care Center (CIA), "Saint Gabriel the Brave" on 38 Ștefan cel Mare in Voluntari.

In May, AJPIS Ilfov, for example, noted that the beneficiaries were correctly fed by the catering company, and the menus were displayed prominently. In August, the ANPDPD team observed that menus were not displayed, and beneficiaries had no idea about the food served at meals. Furthermore, "the discussions with the service staff, revealed that menus are not compiled," and breakfast and dinner are prepared by employees using food "provided by the center's management, not acquired based on a food list."

The same ANPDPD inspectors asserted in August that beneficiaries, contrary to medical recommendations, do not generally receive fresh fruits and vegetables. However, the Ilfov ANPIS personnel claimed in May that beneficiaries consume fresh fruits at least three times a week.

The Ilfov social payments officials unequivocally stated that the catering company contracted by Godei's association, SC Mititei la Tomiță SRL, provides three meals and two snacks daily to beneficiaries. In contrast, ANPDPD claims that although the contract with "Mititei la Tomiță" stipulates two meals and two snacks delivered to the center's residents, they only receive one meal, namely lunch.

Even more concerning is that Ilfov AJPIS found a staff structure of 29 employees at the end of May, seemingly evaporating by the end of August when, according to ANPDPD, only four employees plus President Godei remained. For example, the kinesiologist had not been at work "for a long period," according to Godei's statements to the ANPDPD team during their visit at the end of August. "Since the spring of 2022," explicitly claim the ANPDPD inspectors. On May 31, 2022, the last day of spring, the employees of Ilfov AJPIS found that the center "has a (...) kinesiologist."

In May, Ilfov AJPIS also discovered the "training and professional development plan" for employees. Three months later, ANPDPD found completely unprepared employees, and no documents indicating that they had actually participated in training sessions.

These Ilfov AJPIS findings—seemingly implausible, as they contradict both the ANPDPD control team and CLR inspectors—earned the St. Gabriel the Brave Association a score very close to the maximum in the assessment for obtaining the permanent license.


ADILIA

QUANVELU

A VRETIU

A REVIVIX

IONIALE


 ROMANIA
 AUTORITATEA NATIONALA PENTRU PROTECTIA
 DREPTURILOR PERSOANELOR CU DIZABILITATI

LICENȚĂ DE FUNCȚIONARE

seria F nr 0000097


Serviciul social CENTRUL DE ÎNGRIJIRE ȘI ASISTENȚĂ PENTRU PERSOANE ADULTE CU
DIZABILITATI, STANȚUL GABRIEL CEL ÎNTEAZ (COS) SERVICIU SOCIAL SAO
(CR-1) AL FUNDACIUNII ȘI SERVICIUL SOCIAL ASOCIATIA STANȚUL GABRIEL

Cu sediul/domiciliul în localitatea CEC ÎNTEAZ VOLUNTARI
 str. ȘTEFAN CEL MARE nr. 38 bloc. scara.
 etaj. ap. județul/sector. ILFOV

este acreditat în conformitate cu prevederile Legii nr. 197/2012 privind asigurarea calității în
 domeniul serviciilor sociale, cu modificările ulterioare.

În baza prezentei licențe de funcționare, serviciul social este autorizat să funcționeze pe o
 perioadă de 5 ani, de la data 14/07/2021 la data 13/07/2026

Președintele Autorității Naționale pentru Protecția
 Drepturilor Persoanelor cu Dizabilități



Data eliberării:
 Anul 2021 luna 07 ziua 07

ROMANIA
NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

OPERATING LICENSE
Series LF no. 0000097

Social Service "THE CARE AND ASSISTANCE CENTRE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES "SAINT GABRIEL THE BRAVE" (SOCIAL SERVICE CODE 8790 CR+DI) OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDER THE ASSOCIATION OF SAINT GABRIEL THE BRAVE.

With headquarters in VOLUNTARI, 38 STEFAN CEL MARE STREET, ILFOV county, is accredited according to the provisions of Law no. 197/2012 on ensuring the quality in the field of social services, as further amended. Based on this operating license, the social service is authorized to operate for a period of 5 years, from 14.07.2021 till 10.07.2026.

President of the National Authority for the Protection of the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Round stamp
Illegible signature

Issuance date:07.07.2022

This is how the Gabriel the Brave Center obtained accreditation. Ticking all the quality standards only on paper, without considering the reality experienced every day by the 27 beneficiaries.

One week before the provisional license expired: on July 7, 2022.

However, it is evident that all the specific deficiencies highlighted by ANPDPD and CLR in their reports simply could not be valid at the end of August, respectively, the beginning of September, but not in mid-May.

A perfect business

After just three months since obtaining the provisional license at the beginning of October 2021, not even a year since being established as an NGO, the fictitious saint, Gabriel the Brave, works, and the association of Gabriela Firea's people wins the lucrative contract from DGASPC S3. People start coming to the villa in Pipera.

From October 4, 2021, until December 13, 2021, the center operates without a health authorization, even though it cares for some of the most vulnerable individuals. When it finally receives this authorization, it is obtained for a different form of organization where legal requirements are different: a nursing home, certainly not for a care and assistance center (CIA), as it should have been.

Only on June 22, 2022, does it obtain the necessary health authorization for a center for people unable to care for themselves.

From documents obtained by reporters, on December 7, precisely during the period when it did not have an operating license, the center was fined 250 lei on the grounds that, among other things, "employees cannot prove the mastery of fundamental hygiene notions."

PROCES-VERBAL

de constatare si sanctionare a contravențiilor

07.12.2021

pluic' Lyoria, Asoc. S. Gabriel cel viteaz

ASP Bogdan
inspector HFOU

ASP HFOU
inspector HFOU

[Large diagonal scribble]

Godet Stefan Christian
Bucuresti
Velemtazi
38
Stefan cel Mare
HFOU
Asociatia
Velemtazi
HFOU
Hotarele
Sf Gabriel cel viteaz
PR3

La momentul contravenției nu se poate face dovada mersului cotierilor fundamentate de legea cf OAR 1225/2003.



Report on the finding and sanctioning of offences

Working point St. Gabriel the Brave Association

Date: 07.12.2021

Rosca Bogdan, Ilfov DSP inspector and Descultu Livia Ioana, Ilfov DSP inspector,

Mr. Godei Stefan Cristian, Bucharest, Voluntari, Ilfov, nursing home in Voluntari, 38 Stefan cel Mare, Ilfov, St. Gabriel the Brave Association, Voluntari, illegible, 7, PR3, ground floor, Ilfov

At the time of the verifications, it is not possible to prove that the basic notions of hygiene according to Order 1225/2003 have been taught.

For the period from May 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, the only subsequent contract under the framework agreement available on the site, Gabriel the Brave, receives 1,114,200 lei for the care services of several people with mental disabilities. **In total, 3.8 million lei for the two years during which they committed to caring for beneficiaries in district 3.**

So, "Viși," and all the other people were thrown by DGASPC District 3 into the house in Pipera without any details, consultation, or consent. In total, 27 people, neither more nor less.

When "Viși" died in November 2021, another beneficiary was sent in his place to the house in Pipera.

Because they had to reach the number 27, to ultimately fulfill the contract amount.

The people of Gabriela the Brave

While the unfortunate ones in their care wither away day by day due to a lack of staff and, in fact, services that could at least maintain their condition, if not improve it, the greedy associates of the Minister of Equality of Opportunities Gabriela Firea receive a substantial monthly sum from DGASPC 3 for the center in the house in Pipera. Money that, not being spent for the well-being and progress of the people in their care, remains with them in a significant proportion.

The president of the association, Ștefan Godei, and Ligia Enache have known each other for about ten years, since the time when he was "very young and very restless," as Ligia characterized him in a birthday greeting on Facebook.



Ligia Enache is with Godei Stefan Cristian.

December 29, 2021 · 🌐



Pe Stefan l-am întâlnit acum vreo 9 ani. Era tânăr și neliniștit. Foarte tânăr și chiar foarte neliniștit. Știa el de ce. 😏 A avea multe planuri în cap și nu avea timp de așteptat!

Înmulțiți cu o mie orice credeți că gândeați pe la 25 de ani, adunați cu ambiție, voință de autodepășire, curaj, putere de a trece peste obstacole și adăugați o inimă bună, arătată cu grijă, în momente neașteptate.

După 9 ani, Ștefan este același. Mai înțelept, cu familie și responsabilități. 😊

Dar și cu toate cele enumerate mai sus intacte, plus ceva de neconceput la 20 de ani: puțină răbdare. 😊

La mulți ani, Ștefan! Sunt sigură că îți vei trăi visul. 🥰🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷



Ligia Enache is with Godei Stefan Cristian

December 29, 2021

I met Stefan about 9 years ago. He was young and restless. He knew why. He had many plans and no time to wait!

Multiply by one thousand everything you thought when you were 25, add ambition, the will to self-reliance, courage, power to go over any obstacles and a good heart, carefully shown in unexpected moments.

After 9 years, Stefan is the same. Wiser, with a family and responsibilities.

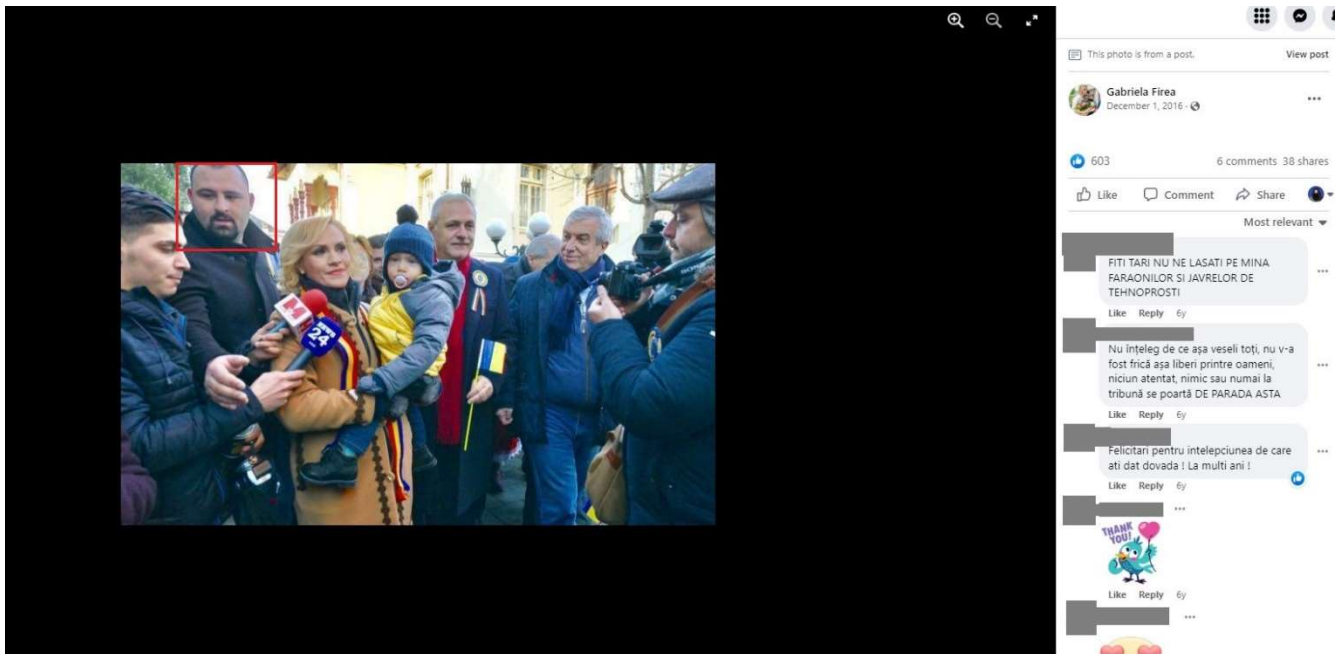
But, with all the above intact, plus something that was inconceivable at 20 years old, a little patience.

Happy birthday, Stefan! I am sure you will live your dream.

Ștefan Godei is no stranger to politics. In 2013, we find him in the position of vice president of the Social Democratic Youth Organization in Ilfov. Gradually, he began to make himself noticed by older party members. A year later, Godei starts to appear in photos alongside Gabriela Firea and other important politicians, mainly from the PSD.



From Voluntari, Godei quickly became one of the most important people in the State. He even seems to have his purpose: the bodyguard who guards Firea from reporters.



This photo is from a post

Gabriela Firea

December 1, 2016

Most relevant

1. BE STRONG, DON'T LEAVE US IN THE HANDS OF PHARAOHS AND TECHNOSTUPID BITCHES
2. I don't understand why so cheerful all of you, you're not afraid so free among the people, no attack nothing or only at the grandstand is wearing FROM THIS PARADE
3. Congratulations for your wisdom! Happy birthday!

After another year, he attended the baptism of Firea and Pandele's son, a party held at their godson's hotel, Robert Negoitã: "Together with friends and colleagues, singing, dancing, and having a good time!"



Godei Stefan Cristian is feeling wonderful at RIN Grand Hotel.

June 7, 2015

At the baptism of Zian Mihail Pandele, together with friends and colleagues, songs, dance and good times! Very good times!

When it comes to public funds, Ligia Gheorghe manages to obtain them from two positions: both as a public servant of the Romanian State and as a beneficiary of public contracts concluded by the State with the St. Gabriel the Brave Association, where she holds the position of vice president.

The association is not mentioned anywhere in the asset or interest declarations published in April of this year by Ligia Enache in her capacity as an advisor to the Minister of Family and Equality of Opportunities, Gabriela Firea.

DECLARAȚIE DE INTERESE

30 de zile de la numire

Subsemnata Gheorghe N. Ligia, având funcția de Consilier la MINISTERUL FAMILIEI TINERETULUI SI EGALITATII DE SANSE, CNP [REDACTED], domiciliul [REDACTED]

cunoscând prevederile art. 292 din Codul penal privind falsul în declarații, declar pe propria răspundere:

1. Asociat sau acționar la societăți comerciale, companii/societăți naționale, instituții de credit, grupuri de interes economic, precum și membru în asociații, fundații sau alte organizații neguvernamentale:			
Unitatea - denumirea și adresa -	Calitatea deținută	Nr. de părți sociale sau de acțiuni	Valoarea totală a părților sociale și/ sau a acțiunilor
-	-	-	-

2. Calitatea de membru în organele de conducere, administrare și control ale societăților comerciale, ale companiilor/societăților naționale, ale instituțiilor de credit, ale grupurilor de interes economic, ale asociațiilor sau fundațiilor ori ale altor organizații neguvernamentale:		
Unitatea - denumirea și adresa -	Calitatea deținută	Valoarea beneficiilor
-	-	-

DECLARATION OF INTEREST 30 days since appointment

I, Gheorghe N. Ligia, as Counsellor at the MINISTRY OF FAMILY, YOUTH AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES, Personal code -, domiciled in -,

Knowing the provisions of art. 292 of the Criminal code on false statements, hereby declare as follows:

1. Shareholder/stockholder in companies, firms/national companies, credit institutions, groups of economic interest, as well as member in any association, foundation or other NGOs

Unit -name and address-	Capacity	No. of shares/stocks	Total value of shares and/or stocks
-	-	-	-

Member in management, administration and control bodies of the companies, firms/national companies, credit institutions, groups of economic interest, associations, foundations or other NGOs

Unit -name and address-	Capacity	Benefits value
-	-	-

Adriana Ecaterina Voicu is the life partner of Ștefan Godei. In the register of associations and foundations, she appears as the person who founded the St. Gabriel the Brave Association. In 2021, she still led the marketing, communication, and PR department of the Youth Center of Bucharest Municipality, where she was appointed office manager as early as 2017 by Mayor Gabriela Firea.

Adriana Voicu, Godei's partner, has also not declared her membership in the St. Gabriel the Brave Association in her wealth statement, although the law requires it.

Ligia Enache and Stefan Godei are longtime friends and business partners with a history, dating back to the summer of 2015. At that time, the meat trade company Piu-Piu & Casa Buna 2015 SRL was established, which they still manage according to the Official Gazette, where it does not appear to be dissolved.

Similar to the case of the St. Gabriel the Brave Association, the name of the company does not appear in Ligia Enache's most recent wealth and interest statements, although she was obligated to mention it.

Reactions

Reporters from CIM and Buletin de București tried to contact everyone mentioned in the "Gabriel the Brave scheme."

We spoke with the president of the association, Stefan Godei. He contradicted, at one point, the irregularities reported in the reports of state institutions and NGO activists who visited the center in Pipera, saying that things "didn't happen exactly as written there."

"We received some recommendations and measures to implement, we implemented them, and I have nothing to comment on," said Godei, after which he hung up the phone.

I called again a few minutes later from another phone, trying to find out exactly how many people had died in Stefan Godei's center in Pipera. "None! Oh, yes, one...," Godei replied, apologizing that he had reached "home, with the family" and did not want to be disturbed anymore, after which he closed the conversation again.

Gabriela Firea's advisor, Ligia Gheorghe (formerly Enache), did not respond to either phone calls or messages on WhatsApp.

Neither Gabriela Firea, Florentin Pandele, nor Robert Negoita answered calls or messages. However, two days after attempting to contact her, Minister Firea had her spokesperson at the ministry take over the questions.

I learned from him why the position of vice president of the minister's advisor in the St. Gabriel the Brave Association does not appear in her interest statements: "The information provided to the ministry by Mrs. Ligia Gheorghe, employed as a minister's advisor, is that she no longer holds the unpaid position of vice president of the St. Gabriel the Brave association, with her resignation taking place in March 2022, shortly after her employment at the ministry." (...) Regarding the wealth or interest statements of Mrs. Ligia Gheorghe, the employee bears full responsibility for the declared data."

I checked whether Ligia Gheorghe did indeed resign from her leadership position in the association. Since her name and position are listed in the articles of association, any changes to it must be made through a court decision, following a legal process. I found a court case on the courts' portal where the association did seek a modification to the articles of association in February 2022. However, upon studying the decision, I realized it only pertained to changing the address of the headquarters, not any mention of the initial composition of the board of directors, with Ligia Gheorghe as vice

president. <https://www.scribd.com/document/621606460/Act-Constitutiv-Asociatia-Sf-Gabriel><https://www.rejust.ro/juris/59297g546>

Antoaneta Preda, the psychologist who counseled the beneficiaries of the Pipera center for almost a year, from December 2021 to November 2022, contradicts the unfavorable reports about the Gabriel the Brave center as well. "Those people who are there, especially those with disabilities, are very well cared for, and they have progressed a lot," she told us.

She added, with melancholy in her voice, that they even managed to learn to sing Christmas carols to make her a "Christmas gift." In addition to that, contrary to the ANPDP report, she told us that the beneficiaries were often engaged in various activities or games.

At the same time, Antoaneta Preda claims that there were no people who were locked in isolation but only "taken to isolation" when needed, and the ambulance "was naturally called" when medical issues arose.

The psychologist of the St. Gabriel the Brave Center confirmed that she was absent from the center for two months in the summer of 2022 because she was on leave. Then she added another reason: many of the beneficiaries allegedly fell ill with Covid-19 during the same period. Later in the conversation, she remembered that she also had some health problems at that time, which prevented her from seeing the beneficiaries from the center in Voluntari.

to be continued

Reporters: Bianca Albu (Buletin de București) and Ovidiu Vanghele (Centrul de Investigații Media)

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