



**ChildPact**  
COALITION FOR CHILD PROTECTION

**ACTIVITY  
REPORT**

**2017**

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# 2017 AT A GLANCE

Analyzing ChildPact's year 2017, the best way to summarize it is **"Governance, Governance, Governance"**.

The year 2017 has brought many changes for ChildPact. The organization has changed its leadership, welcoming 3 new full members, a new President, a new Steering Committee and a new Secretary General. The **General Assembly has grown** from the 5 founding members from Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, and Romania, welcoming as full members the coalitions from Kosovo, Georgia and Serbia, while the informal coalitions from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Azerbaijan have continued to enjoy their associated status. ChildPact has come closer also to our colleagues from Montenegro and FYR Macedonia during 2017, starting new collaborations and working together.

The year 2017 has brought the **first elections for President and Steering Committee members after the set-up of the organization in 2015**. We have thus welcomed George Bogdanov from our member in Bulgaria as President, and our colleagues from Albania (Zini Kore), Armenia (Arshak Gasparyan), Kosovo (Donjete Kelmendi) and Serbia (Saša Stefanovic) as members of the Steering Committee. We have said good-bye to our first Secretary General,

Mirela Oprea, and have welcomed the new Secretary General, Cristina Rigman.

The year 2017 has been mostly **inwards oriented**. ChildPact members and leadership have taken a lot of time to look at the original set-up of the organization and adjust it based on the experiences of the first years and considering the aspirations and views of its membership. The statutes of the organization have been changed and many internal rules and policies have been developed with the view to improve the decision making processes and increase the level of operational flexibility, transparency and good governance.

The year 2017 has seen **several project proposals unfolding**, some of them to the extent of being submitted, others remaining unfinished attempts. All of them have brought lots of valuable experiences for the new leadership of ChildPact, learning and lessons that will most definitely support our better performance in the future. All of them have had a strong focus on good governance, from the governance of ChildPact as a network of networks, to the governance of our members, networks themselves at the national level, and to the governance of our countries in relation to the cause

that keeps us all involved and motivated: accessible, affordable and continuous protection for every child inside and outside of family environment.

The year 2017 has been a continuous struggle with ourselves and our aspirations, our different views and opinions, our dearest cause and our most significant challenge: to change the lives of children by inspiring transformational child protection policy making and implementation. Because only by challenging ourselves we will be able to better serve our cause and improve the life of our ultimate beneficiaries: the children in the region. ChildPact is in its youngest age as an organization, an age where affirmation of its independence and capacities is not at all an easy task, and being prepared to raise up to this expectation requires a lot of inner though, strength and determination, wisdom and flexibility, friends and supporters, followers and leaders.

**ChildPact comes out of 2017 charged** with more members, new leadership, new and old inspiration, and increased motivation to continue and succeed. We are looking confidently to some great opportunities that 2018 is already placing ahead of us and will continue to work with ourselves and others **to get one step closer to our mission and vision.**



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #1

ChildPact advocates for and contributes to evidence based policy making that embeds child protection at all levels of decision and implementation

CHILD LABOUR, STILL AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE AND SOUTH CAUCASUS

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In 2017 ChildPact organized a media campaign to mark the international day against child labour and **called on all governments, and particularly of those in our region (South East Europe and South Caucasus), to review their policies and practices in order to eliminate child labour. The campaign**

**highlighted that strong prevention mechanisms are needed to ensure that adequate rehabilitation services are in place in order to provide all the support needed by children whose rights have been violated.**

In spite of clear commitments by all governments of the wider Black Sea region to implement in full the UNCRC, including in relation to child labour, actions to prevent and end child labour and economic exploitation remain limited. Based on the results of the Child Protection Index, we have concluded that there are important differences among the countries in our region, but crucially, not a single one of them is respecting its legally-binding commitment to implement in full the UNCRC in this respect. Most countries perform relatively well in terms of legislation, but unfortunately, as long as good laws remain only on paper, children remain vulnerable to



exploitation.

Overall, the Child Protection Index also highlighted that effective child protection requires a holistic approach: having the right legislation in place is only a first step, and does not relieve governments from their commitment to ensure that the UNCRC is thoroughly implemented. Finally, legislation and practices should be able to adapt in order to cope with new developments, such as for example the migration crisis.



## REFUGEES CRISIS IN THE REGION: CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

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In September 2017 ChildPact organized a media campaign to **call on all stakeholders to increase their efforts to properly address the needs of all refugee children, including unaccompanied minors (UAM), who find themselves in an exceptionally vulnerable situation.**

The campaign highlighted the fact that increased mobilization and coordination capacity are key to such efforts, but also prioritization of intervention targeting children as the most and worst affected group.

Alarming numbers: The number of migrant and refugee children fleeing their home countries and moving across international borders in search of asylum has dramatically increased over the past two years. Many of them are unaccompanied – moving alone without family members. According to the European Commission, nearly 800,000 children applied for asylum in Europe in 2015 and 2016, out of which 170,000 were unaccompanied and separated children. The large-scale movements of children seeking asylum are unlikely to end in the foreseeable future.

High Risks: Unaccompanied children are particularly vulnerable, facing grave dangers along migration routes – they are exposed to high risk of violence, exploitation, smuggling, and trafficking. Their plight does not end once they arrive to their destination as these children can spend years in refugee camps, lacking access to health care, education, and other essential services and suffering psychological consequences that will mark their entire life.

Unaccompanied minors are particularly at risk of neglect. Both asylum and non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors are to be considered first and foremost as children, rather than migrants; the motivation of their journey is substantially irrelevant for the level of protection they should be accorded.

Required Response: Given the exponential growth in the number of asylum-seeking migrant children in the region, responding to immediate humanitarian needs has become a key priority for all actors involved, who have to work strenuously and in emergency conditions to support the most vulnerable. However, all stakeholders must think of long term solutions both for refugee children that have already arrived in Europe, and those that are still on the way or expected to arrive in the future. States should be reminded of their responsibility to protect all children within their borders without exception, taking into account that migrant and refugee children require specific attention.



## THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF NETWORKS IN MONITORING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD HELD IN MOLDOVA

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As part of the Black Sea NGO Forum held in Chisinau on 4-6 December 2017, ChildPact co-hosted together with APSCF, the member from Moldova, the thematic workshop on the role of networks in monitoring the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The workshop was moderated by ChildPact Secretary General and 3 ChildPact members presented their experiences in monitoring the UNCRC, including results of the index (Bulgaria, Albania and Moldova) and Azerbaijan member has had an intervention from the public.

**The event in Chisinau gathered 152 participants from 13 countries, the majority from the Black Sea Region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey), and a few from the Balkans (Albania, Serbia and FYR Macedonia).**

Mr George Bogdanov, ChildPact President and Executive Director of the National Network for Children talked about the experience of the Bulgarian coalition in monitoring children's rights and the importance of choosing the rights instruments to influence not only the national agenda, but also the regional one. Ms Mariana Ianachevici from APSCF talked about the importance of regional cooperation for child protection, mentioning that all ChildPact countries are in the process of reforming the child protection field.



Ms Ianachevici also talked about the experience of APSCF in leading the process of monitoring the implementation of child rights in Moldova and elaborating the alternative report for the Republic of Moldova, with the valuable direct participation of children.



Ms. Cristina Rigman, ChildPact Secretary General delivered during the event a presentation on the good governance of networks highlighting four main points: (1) networks are needed by their member NGOs to be stronger, (2) networks are wanted by their members to learn from each other and work together for the benefit of the children; (3) networks are used by their members to make their voice heard, by governments and decision makers to facilitate consultation and legitimate decisions and processes, and by donors to increase their reach out and advance their agenda; (4) networks are also seduced by the fact that they are judged by so many standards by each of the stakeholders they interact with, they are treated like regular NGOs while their dynamics and challenges are very different, they depend on very many factors and have, in fact, very little control over the success of their actions which depend either on the performance of their members or mostly by the reaction and performance of the decision makers they are trying to influence. The only strength the networks can have to successfully tackle these challenges is their good governance.





# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #2

ChildPact supports the strengthening of its members' capacity to tackle current and emergent issues in child protection

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

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ChildPact continued the implementation of the project United Voices for Children, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through World Vision Germany and AgroInvest Foundation Serbia. The project partners are 7 ChildPact members from Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, and Serbia. In 2017 minimum operational standards and funding standards for national coalitions were developed. Followed by the adopted document of Governance Manual created in 2016, ChildPact continued on defining the details of minimum operational standards and funding standards which will be adopted by all the members as minimum requirements for ChildPact membership.

## TRAINING AND COACHING PROGRAMS

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**for ChildPact members under the UVC project, designed to implement minimum operational and funding standards in each coalition.** After coaching program implemented during 2016, and one-on-one work with 4 coalitions, the coach continued, with the support of ChildPact Secretary General, reviewing the steps and helping coalitions in establishing standards in their internal documentation. Several coalitions adopted also the Code of Ethics and working standards with children and customized the documents according to their own needs / legal regulations, etc. In accordance with this, ChildPact Secretary General traveled to Moldova to deliver a 3 days training on governance for networks for

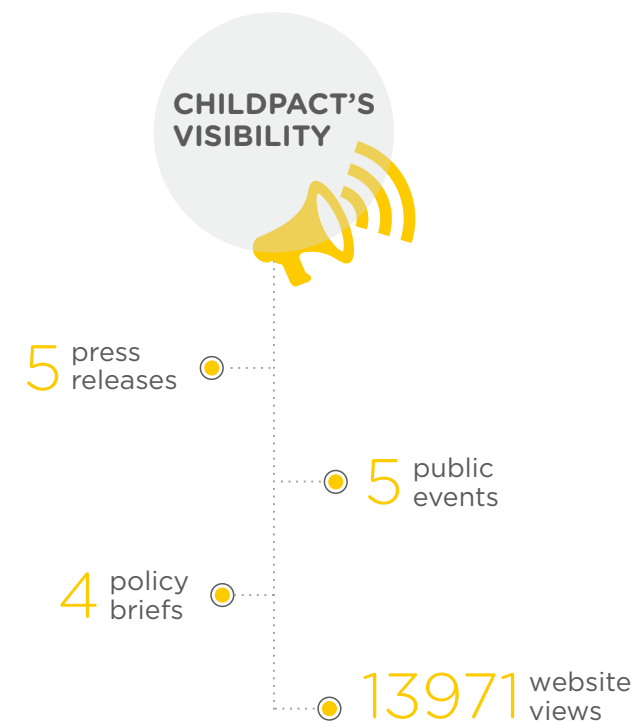
APSCF members based on ChildPact's governance manual - 20 members participated in the 3 days training held in July 2017. In December 2017 ChildPact has so took part in the General Assembly of APSCF, our member in Republic of Moldova, where the Secretary General of ChildPact delivered a 2 hours workshop on governance of networks and the relationship between members and coalitions, in follow up of the governance training delivered in July. The presentation has been highly appreciated by the members of APSCF who have acknowledged it to be very useful for their position as members of the coalition. The main results of this effort for ChildPact is the existence of a 3 days training design on governance of networks that can be replicated also for other member coalitions.

## ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONING

ChildPact **General Assembly 2017** took place on April 25-26 in Belgrade, Serbia. 2017 has been a year of great changes in ChildPact, starting from having a new Secretary General as of March 2017 and continuing with electing a new President and Steering Committee in April 2017. A lot of energy and time has been invested in accommodating the new people with their positions, identifying best ways of communication and working together, dealing with old and new challenges. ChildPact **Steering Committee met 4 times** during 2017. Among the main decisions of the Steering Committee we mention here the work to improve the governance of ChildPact by developing internal rules, decision making procedures, complaint procedures for the members, and code of ethics to be approved in the next General Assembly in 2018.

## SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

**ChildPact has provided support for members for creating visibility materials and social media content.** More than 20 different materials were developed in line with the coalitions' needs, including 3 promotional video clips. All coalitions had the opportunity to distribute their materials and press releases through ChildPact's website, newsletter and social media channels.



**ChildPact has continued to monitor the implementation of the national level strategies to obtain localized funding individually designed and implemented under the UVC project.** Building the capacity for fundraising followed as a logical continuation of the Celebrity and Business Engagement program supported by the project UVC in 2016. In the line with this, the fundraising activities had taken place mostly during 2017, as one of the final activities of the UVC project. The fundraising program provided individual support to each partner coalition in the project. Local fundraising experts were hired for 4 - 6 months and worked intensively with coalitions on developing fundraising strategies and methodologies based on national contexts, individual coalition needs and organizational goals and identification of potential funders along with developing related fundraising materials.

**Templates and online trainings for media outreach** developed through partnerships with media experts and think tanks. Within the framework of UVC project, this measure is set to develop and strengthen relationships with media outlets, as well as strengthen coalitions' capacities to work with media. This measure involved a media engagement 'package' which consisted of: 1) Professional media coaching, 2) Field trip for journalists and 3) Media round table. During 2017, all coalitions successfully rounded up the whole package and established important cooperation with national media representatives.

**Advocacy support** for ChildPact member in Moldova APSCF: ChildPact has drafted the report "Inclusive Education in Moldova: speaking out in the places that matter". The report focuses in particular with the activity of three institutions with regards to the topic of inclusive education: the Parliament, the Government and the Ministry of Education. The report uses a unique and original methodology called "text mining" in order to scan various official documents issued by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, available on line. ChildPact also raised awareness about APSCF

activities at the regional level by promoting APSCF actions on the regional platform of ChildPact and its social media channels and facilitated the participation of APSCF Presidnet, Ms. Mariana Ianachevici in the 10th anniversary of the Black Sea NGO Forum event organized in Bucharest on September 25th, where she has presented the regional cooperation of APSCF in the frame of their membership in ChildPact as a good practice of regional cooperation in the Black Sea Area. During the event Ms. Ianachevici had the opportunity to network with the representatives of the European External Action Service and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that also took part in the event.



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #3

## ChildPact acts as a reference point on child protection issues

### CROSS-COMPARISON STUDIES

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In March 2017 ChildPact and the Network of Civil Society Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) have launched cross-comparison studies between the Child Protection Index results and the European Union's progress report for Serbia, highlighting a number of actions that Serbia must take to enhance its capability for protecting the rights of the children. The EU's Progress Report and the Child Protection Index both highlighted that actual implementation of the legal framework on child rights should be a key government priority both in Serbia.

The cross-comparison called "**Serbia: EU Progress Report and CPI highlight key weaknesses in the child protection system**" included information on how other countries in the region introduced key reforms in areas where Serbia's current policies do not comply with the UNCRC.





## Key issues

- Serbia's legal framework on child rights needs adjustments in order to be fully compliant with the UNCRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) commitments and EU requirements
- The main issue remains the large gap between policy and implementation: it is important to have the right legal framework in place, but these rights must also exist in the lives of real children in need
- The EU's Progress Report and the Child Protection Index both highlight that actual implementation of Serbia's legal framework on child rights should be a key government priority
- Serbia still has to put more efforts in tackling child trafficking and child labour issues
- Serbia needs to intensify efforts to deinstitutionalise children with disability and further develop community services and support to families of children with disability to prevent institutionalisation
- Serbia should ensure capacity and funding to collect relevant data and monitor the child protection system

In April 2017, ChildPact and the Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection in Kosovo (KOMF) launched a similar cross-comparison study between the Child Protection Index results and the European Union's progress report for Kosovo.

The EU's Progress Report and the Child Protection Index both highlight that actual implementation of Kosovo's legal framework on child rights should be a key government priority.

## Key issues

- Kosovo's legal framework on child rights needs adjustments in order to be fully compliant with Kosovo's UNCRC (UN convention on the rights of the child) commitments and EU requirements

- However, the main issue at this stage is the large gap between policy and implementation: it is important to have the right legal framework in place, but it must not exist only on paper
- Appropriate budget resources should be dedicated to ensuring that the rights of all of Kosovo's children are protected, in line with international best practices
- EU's Progress Report and the Child Protection Index both highlight that actual implementation of Kosovo's legal framework on child rights should be a key government priority.

The ChildPact member in Kosovo, KOMF, organised a panel where Ombudsperson Hilmi Jashari, Deputy Head of UNICEF Office in Kosovo James Mugaju and Executive Director of KOMF Donjeta Kelmendi had the opportunity to debate on the child protection reforms and developments in Kosovo. The launch of the brief **"Kosovo: EU Progress Report and CPI highlight key weaknesses in the child protection system"** provided an excellent opportunity to compare and deepen the child protection recommendations regarding the further enhancement of Kosovo's child protection environment.



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

## ChildPact members



**ALBANIA**  
TOGETHER FOR THE HOLISTIC CARE OF CHILDREN • BKTf  
[www.bktfcoalition.org](http://www.bktfcoalition.org)



**ARMENIA**  
CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK • CPN  
[www.armeniachildprotection.org](http://www.armeniachildprotection.org)



**BULGARIA**  
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR CHILDREN • NNC  
[www.nmd.bg](http://www.nmd.bg)



**GEORGIA**  
COALITION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH • GCCY  
[www.gccy.ge](http://www.gccy.ge)



**AZERBAIJAN**  
NGO ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
[www.ngoalliance.net](http://www.ngoalliance.net)



**KOSOVO**  
COALITION OF NGOs FOR CHILD PROTECTION • KOMF  
[www.komfkosova.org](http://www.komfkosova.org)



**MOLDOVA**  
ALLIANCE OF ACTIVE NGOs IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL  
PROTECTION OF FAMILY AND CHILD • APSCF  
[www.aliantacf.md](http://www.aliantacf.md)



**ROMANIA**  
NGOs FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN • FONPC  
[www.fonpc.ro](http://www.fonpc.ro)



**SERBIA**  
NETWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR CHILDREN OF SERBIA • MODS  
[www.zadecu.org](http://www.zadecu.org)



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**  
STRONGER VOICE FOR CHILDREN • SVC  
[www.snaznijglaszadjecu.ba](http://www.snaznijglaszadjecu.ba)

FULL MEMBERS

ASSOCIATED  
MEMBERS

# Steering Committee



**Donjeta Kelmendi**  
Vice President of ChildPact

Executive Director of the  
Coalition of NGOs for Child  
Protection (KOMF) Kosovo



**Saša Stefanovic**  
Steering Committee Member

Director of the Network of Civil  
Society Organizations for  
Children of Serbia (MODS) Serbia



**George Bogdanov**  
President of ChildPact

Executive Director of the  
National Network for Children  
Bulgaria



**Arshak Gasparyan**  
Steering Committee Member

President of the Armenian Child  
Protection Network Armenia



**Zini Kore**  
Steering Committee Member

Representative of the All  
Together for the Holistic Care of  
Children (BKTF) Albania

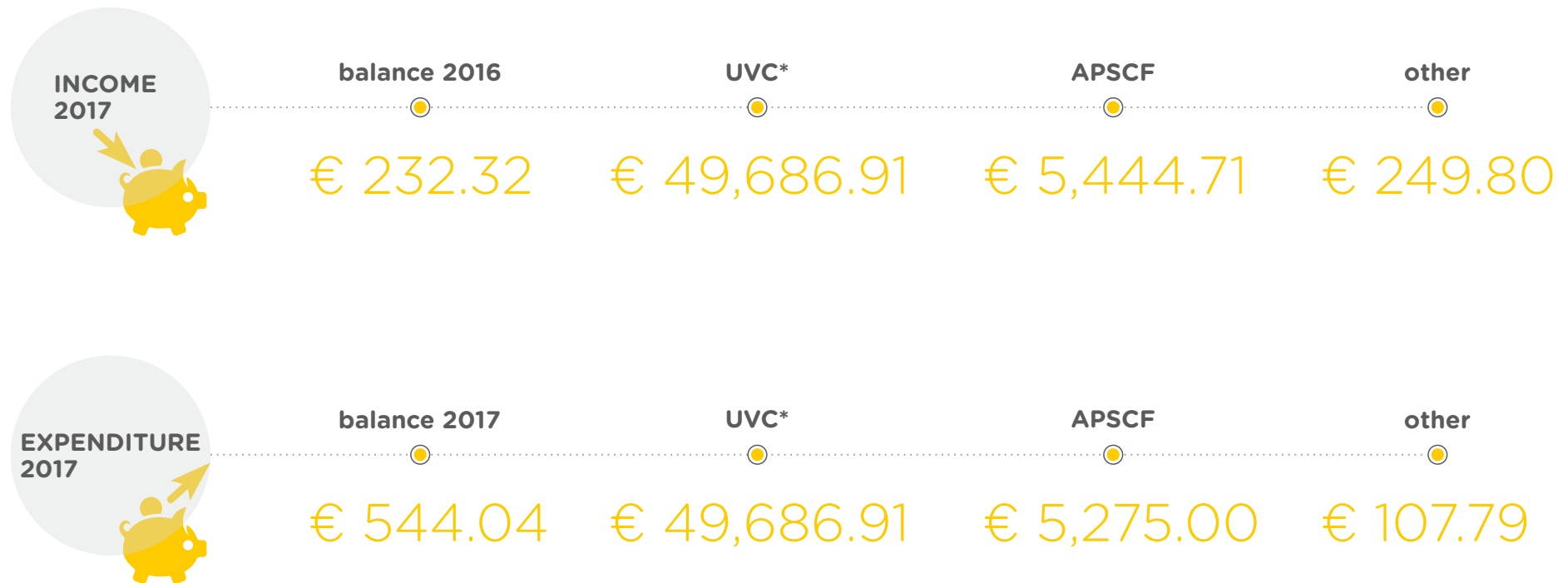
# Secretariat



**Cristina Rigman**  
Secretary General

**Roxana Todea**  
Advocacy &  
Communications Manager

# FINANCIAL REPORT



\* The UVC Project is funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and managed by Agroinvest Foundation Serbia. At the time of application ChildPact was not legally registered and therefore did not become official project partner, but it is the main beneficiary of the activities alongside its member organizations. The income and expenditure from the UVC project is not reflected in the ChildPact accounts as all expenses are directly managed by Agroinvest Foundation.



# ChildPact

A special '*THANK YOU*' to the wonderful people supporting our work and to our donors!



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