

Children's Worlds National Report

ROMANIA



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1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population

Children (0-18 years) represent about 19.9% of the total population of Romania, which, according to the Tempo online database of the National Statistical Institute, is around 19,414,458. Of those, 1,057,802 are between 8 and 12 years (which represents 5.4% of the total population)

The country contains 8 development regions corresponding to European Union NUTS II-level divisions (North West, Centre, North East, South East, South, Bucharest-Ilfov, South West, and West).



Figure 1. Distribution of the Romanian development regions

According to the last census, 88.9% of the country's population is of Romanian ethnicity. The proportion of Hungarian population is 6.5%, while the number of those who declared themselves to be of Roma ethnicity was around 3.3%. This is an underestimated proportion, giving that a significant part of Roma do not identify themselves as such.

Greek Orthodox are the largest religious group (85.94%), followed by Roman-Catholics (4.56%), and Protestants (3.15%). 0.84% of the people are Greek-Catholics, 0.61% are Baptists, 1.93% are Pentecostals, and 0.45% are Adventists. Other declared religions sum up to 1.80%.

According to Eurostat, the purchasing power adjusted GDP per capita was in 2018 of 19,800 Euro, compared to the EU28 average of 30,400. This makes Romania the third lowest ranked in the EU28 (above Croatia and Bulgaria). The result is that 32.5% of the population is at risk of poverty or social exclusion (compared to the EU28 mean of 21.9%). The situation is even worse for children: Romania has the highest at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate for children under 18: 38.1%, compared with the EU28 mean of 24.3%.

Of all children of age 8-12, 50.4% live in urban areas and 49.6% in rural areas. 51.4% of them are boys and 48.6% girls.

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

We aimed at obtaining a nationally representative sample of children in school grades II (age 8-9), IV (age 10-11) and VI (age 12-13) with minimum 1100 children in each group. The primary sampling unit was the class in the school. Three samples were designed for grades II, IV and VI (where possible, the same schools being chosen within all three classes). The sample was stratified by the eight development regions and by urban/rural location. Within each stratum two to four counties were selected from the list of counties in the development region – see next table.

Table 1. Regions and countries

	Region	Counties	No. of counties selected/no. of counties
1	North West	Bihor, Cluj, Sălaj	3/6
2	Centre	Alba, Sibiu, Covasna	3/6
3	North East	Neamț, Bacău	2/6
4	South East	Brăila, Galați	2/6
5	South	Giurgiu, Călărași	2/7
6	Bucharest-Ilfov	Bucharest, Ilfov	2/2
7	South West	Dolj, Olt	2/5
8	West	Arad, Hunedoara	2/4

The number of classes needed for each stratum was computed based on a rough estimation of total number of classes for each school and a predicted response rate of 65%. A unique number was assigned to each school within a stratum and the schools were selected by random number generator. If there were only one class in the respective school, this was selected. If there were more than one class, the class was selected randomly. Giving the variations in the levels of acceptance by children and parents, we had to proceed with corrections on the field, by adding classes in the samples, either from other schools in the vicinity of the remaining schools, or by randomly selecting another class from the schools from the strata in which the data collection has been not yet finished.

The survey began in March 2019 and was completed by June 2019 (with the exception of 7 classes that for which the data collection was realized in September 2019). After data cleaning, the survey data set contained questionnaires from a sample of 4104 children: 1082 (8 years old), 1241 (10 years old), and 1145 (12 years old).

For most of the questionnaires, the survey language was Romanian. However, in classes where the teaching language was Hungarian a translated version of the questionnaire was used. Based on the question about the language spoken at home, we made a rough estimation of the ethnicity of the respondent. Weights were assigned to all the respondents,

in order to match the distribution by stratum relative size. Extra classes were added with roma children, in order to ensure an estimated proportion of Roma children.

2.1 The participants

Table 2. Age by gender (Numbers, weighted (%))

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Boy	535 (51.8)	574 (48.2)	541(50.4)	1650 (50.1)
Girl	497 (48.2)	617 (51.8)	532 (48.6)	1646 (49.9)
Total	1032 (100)	1191 (100)	1073 (100)	3296 (100)

Note: 50 missing cases for 8 and 10 years old, 72 cases for 12 years old

50.1% of the sample were boys and 49.9% were girls.

Table 3. Rural school vs. urban school (%)

	rural school	urban school
8 year-old	44.5	55.5
10 year-old	45.0	55.0
12 year-old	40.7	59.3
Total	43.5	56.5

Note: No missing cases

Overall, 56.5% of the children learn in urban schools, but for the 12-year-old this proportion is close to 60%.

2.2 The home and the people children live with

98.5% live with their family. 1.2 percent live in foster care, and only 0.1 percent live in children's home.

Table 4. Home type (all age groups) (%)

I live with my family	98.5
I live in a foster home	1.2
I live in a children's home	0.1
I live in another type of home	0.2
Total	100.0

Note: 46 missing cases






93.9% of children live with their mother, 88.6% with their father. 2.6% lived with mother's partner and 5% with father's partner. 77% live with siblings and 3.1% live with other children. 36.3% of the children live with their grandmothers and 22% of children live with their grandfathers.

Table 5. People you live with (all age groups) (%)

Mother	93.9
Father	88.6
Mother's partner	2.6
Father's partner	5.0
Grandmother	36.3
Grandfather	22.0
Brothers and sisters	77.0
Other children	3.1
Other adult(s)	4.9
Total	100.0

Note: 44 missing cases for Mother, 91 missing cases for father

Table 6. Satisfaction with the people you live with (8-year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with	0.7	0.8	2.2	16.3	80.0

Note: 3 missing cases

Children in the 10-years-old and 12-years-old age groups were asked the same question, but on a scale from 0 to 10.

Table 7. Satisfaction with the people you live with (10&12-year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.1	2.6	3.5	10.2	79.3

Note: 9 missing cases for 10-year-old, 8 missing cases for 12-year-old

Children are generally very satisfied with the people they live with. About 80% of them rated at maximum level of the scale their satisfaction.

Table 8. Variations in questions about home and family (All age groups; means)






	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision
8 year-old	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.4	.
10 year-old	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.4
12 year-old	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.3
Total	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.3

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 29 and 112

Children rate the highest the safety and the family care, and the lowest the items related to their participation within the family. There are very little variations in satisfaction with the aspects of family life by year group. The levels seem to slightly decrease with age.

2.3 The home where children live

Table 9. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (8 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...					
the house or flat where you live	0.1	0.4	2.0	17.6	79.9

Note: 20 missing cases

Table 10. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (10 & 12-year-old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
the house or flat where you live	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.1	2.7	5.5	11.3	76.7

Note: 13 missing cases for 10-year-old, 7 missing cases for 12-year-old

Children are generally satisfied with the house or flat where you live. Only about 2.5% of 8 years old and 3.8% of 10 and 12 years old rated their satisfaction at the median of the scales or below.

88.9% of the 10- & 12-year-old report they have a place to study in the house.

Table 11. Things you have (%)






Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Place to study	88.9%

Note: 12 missing cases for 10-year-old, 2 missing cases for 12-year-old

2.4 Friends

More than half of the children (53.8%) gave the maximum rate to their satisfaction with friends. In case of 8 years old children the proportion of the most positive answers amount to 69.5%.

Table 12. Satisfaction with your friends (8 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your friends	0.4	0.9	3.7	25.4	69.5

Note: 6 missing cases

Table 13. Satisfaction with your friends (10 & 12 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your friends	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.8	2.3	2.8	5.5	10.9	21.6	53.8

Note: 11 missing cases for 10-year-old, 16 missing cases for 12-year-old

In the following table are summarised the answers to questions on children's views about their friends.

Table 14. Friends (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends	3.9	3.8	13.3	22.3	56.6
My friends are usually nice to me	2.7	5.6	16.1	25.3	50.3
Me and my friends get along well together	1.6	3.4	11.9	25.2	57.8
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me	3.9	3.9	9.2	18.8	64.2






Note: Number of missing cases varies between 148 and 213

More than half of the children totally agreed with all the questions. The highest percent of positive answers are to the question of support from friends and the lowest percent is at the question “my friends are usually nice to me”.

2.5 School

Children are generally satisfied with different aspects of school. For all the age groups, the highest levels of satisfaction are with things they have learned and their life as a student. Children have the lowest levels of satisfaction with other children in their class.

Table 15. Satisfaction with school life (8 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Life as a student	0.9	1.7	4.7	24.4	68.2
Things you have learned	0.7	0.7	3.7	18.1	76.7
Other children in your class	1.4	3.9	12.6	29.5	52.7

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 31 and 50

Table 16. Satisfaction with school life (10&12 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life as a student	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	3.4	3.3	6.3	13.3	20.6	50.5
Things you have learned	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	2.0	1.8	4.5	8.3	15.6	65.8
Other children in your class	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.9	2.1	4.5	5.7	9.3	16.1	23.7	32.7

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 10 and 27

Children were asked a series of questions concerning their evaluation with different aspects at the school. Most of children agreed a lot or totally agreed with all of sentences. The lowest levels of agreement are with the statement: ‘If I have a problem at school, other children will help me (12.3% do not agreed or agreed a little bit). The highest levels of agreement were with the statements: ‘My teachers care about me’ and ‘If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me’ (more than 80% agreed a lot or totally agreed).

Table 17. Views about school (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
My teachers care about me	2.0	3.1	13.3	20.9	60.7
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me	1.9	3.9	11.5	21.4	61.3
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me	4.7	7.6	19.4	24.7	43.5
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account	4.6	6.6	17.3	25.4	46.1
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me	3.7	6.8	14.6	24.4	50.5
I feel safe at school	3.8	4.4	15.7	22.1	54.0

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 54 and 121

Around 40% of children have experience at least one all the types of victimization at school. More than 14% of the children experience verbal victimization (being called unkind names) or relational victimisation (being left out by other children in the class) for more than three times in the last year.

Table 18. Bullying (All age groups) (%)






How often:	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school	62.2	17.6	9.3	11.0
Called unkind names by other children in your school	57.6	19.9	8.6	14.0
Left out by other children in your class	59.5	17.1	9.3	14.1

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 44 and 102

2.6 The area where children live

Children are generally very satisfied with the area in which they live.

Table 19. Satisfaction with local area (8 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live	0.4	1.9	4.2	19.8	73.6

Note: 12 missing cases

Table 20. Satisfaction with local area (10&12 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.2	2.4	3.0	4.9	11.0	19.3	55.8

Note: 16 missing cases for 10-year-old, 12 missing cases for 12-year-old

Regarding the answers on safety and availability of playgrounds in area in which the children live the findings are contrasting. While 76% of them agreed a lot or totally with the statement 'I feel safe when I walk around the area I live in', in the case of the question 'In my area there are enough places to play or to have a good time', this percent drops to 52.9%.

Table 21. Views about local area (All age group) (%)

In my area, I live in...	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe when I walk	4.2	4.3	15.5	23.2	52.8
There are enough places to play or to have a good time	18.8	11.2	17.1	15.5	37.4

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 37 and 82

2.7 Money and the things children have

Table 22. How often do you worry about how much money your family has? (%)






	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	41.1	49.1	50.2	47.1
Sometimes	29.6	32.4	31.3	31.2
Often	8.0	7.8	8.3	8.0
Always	21.3	10.7	10.2	13.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: 121 missing cases for 8-year-old, 80 missing cases for 10-year-old, and 58 missing cases for 12-year-old

The number of children that are worried often or always decrease with age, which is a surprising result – we would expect a higher involvement in the family problems at higher age.

Overall, children are very satisfied with the things they have. Over 80% of the 8-year-old and almost 75% of the 10 & 12-year-old give the maximum rating.

Table 23. Satisfaction with all the things you have (8-year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
all the things you have	0.5	0.9	2.1	16.4	80.1

Note: 12 missing cases

Table 24. Satisfaction with all the things you have (10&12-year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
all the things you have	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.0	2.4	5.1	14.2	74.8

Note: 10 missing cases for 10-year-old, 8 missing cases for 12-year-old

Only 89.7% of the children say they have always enough food to eat each day.

Table 25. Do you have enough food to eat each day? (%)

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.5
Sometimes	2.4	1.3	0.6	1.4
Often	6.9	3.6	4.1	4.8
Always	89.7	94.8	94.9	93.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: 48 missing cases for 8-year-old, 15 missing cases for 10-year-old, and 18 missing cases for 12-year-old

We asked children about the things they and their families own (for the 8-years-old group a shorter list was included).

Table 26. The things children have (%)

Which of the following do you have	8 year-old		10 year-old		12 year-old		Total	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Clothes in good condition	1.1	98.9	2.1	97.9	0.9	99.1	1.4	98.6
Enough money for school trips and activities	9.7	90.3	9.5	90.5	7.5	92.5	8.9	91.1
Access to the Internet at home	9.8	90.2	9.5	90.5	5.8	94.2	8.4	91.6
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies	7.9	92.1	10.4	89.6	7.0	93.0	8.5	91.5
Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself	18.3	81.7	12.9	87.1	7.4	92.6	12.7	87.3
Two pairs of shoes	4.6	95.4	5.1	94.9	4.3	95.7	4.7	95.3
A mobile phone	21.0	79.0	12.1	87.9	4.4	95.6	12.2	87.8
The equipment/things you need for school	5.3	94.7	4.1	95.9	2.4	97.6	3.9	96.1

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 4 and 51

Almost 99% of the children had good clothes to wear for school. About 91% of them have access to the Internet at home, and a similar percent have the equipment/things they need for sports and hobbies. 79% of 8-year-old children have their own mobile phone, this percentage increasing with age group up to 12-year-olds (95.6%). The percentage of children having pocket money/money to spend on themselves varies from 81.7% for 8-year-olds to 92.6% for 12-year-olds. Around 5% of the children have not two pairs of shoes and between 2.4 and 5.3% have not the equipment/things they need for school.

Table 27. Does your home have (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Electricity	
All of the time	96.7
Some of the time	2.7
Not at all	0.6
Running water	
Yes	92.1
No	7.6
Not sure	0.3
A toilet that flushes	
Yes	81.2
No	18.3
Not sure	0.5

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 21 and 36

3.3 of the children's homes are in lack of permanent electricity. 7.6 of the children don't have running water while 18.3% have no flushing toilet.

Table 28. Descriptive statistics on family's material possessions (All age groups) (%)






A computer (including laptops and tablets)	85.2
A television	97.8
A fridge/freezer	96.4
A radio	57.9
A telephone (landline or mobile)	95.6
A family car / van / motorbike / etc.	74.5

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 54 and 79

About 85 percent of the households in which children live have a computer but only 57.9% have a radio. 95.6% of children's households have a telephone, 96.4% have a fridge and 97.8% have television. Only 74.5% have a family car or other means of transportation.

2.8 Time use

Table 29. Satisfaction with time use (8 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time	0.8	0.6	3.0	21.0	72.5

Note: 24 missing cases

Table 29. Satisfaction with time use (10&12 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	1.4	1.8	4.3	9.2	20.2	61.8
How much free time you have to do what you want	1.1	0.4	1.0	0.8	1.5	3.3	3.3	5.7	10.8	18.3	53.8





Note: Number of missing cases varies between 4 and 25

While ratings are still very positive, compared to other domains of life, children are less satisfied with the available free time and how they use it. 72.5% of the 8-year-old and almost 61.8% of the 10 & 12-year-old gave the maximum rating to the question on satisfaction with time use. In the case of satisfaction with how much free time they had, a little over 50% were perfectly satisfied.

2.9 Subjective well-being: how children feel about their lives

OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

Table 30. Satisfaction with life as a whole (8-year-old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole	1.1	0.6	3.3	14.6	80.4

Note: 45 missing cases

Table 31. Satisfaction with life as a whole (10 & 12-year-old)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.7	4.4	13.5	77.1

Note: 30 missing cases for 10-year-old, 28 missing cases for 12-year-old

CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Table 32. CW-SWBS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.8	1.1	2.1	4.3	8.0	82.3
My life is going well	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.0	2.4	5.6	15.7	71.9
I have a good life	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.3	0.8	2.0	4.0	11.5	78.6
The things that happen in my life are excellent	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.9	2.1	4.6	10.3	22.9	55.6
I like my life	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.7	1.9	3.4	10.2	80.5
I am happy with my life	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.0	2.1	3.4	10.7	80.0

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 7 and 26

CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale), 2003)

Table 33. CW- DBSWBS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.1	2.6	3.5	10.2	79.3
Your friends	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.8	2.3	2.8	5.5	10.9	21.6	53.8
Your life as a student	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	3.4	3.3	6.3	13.3	20.6	50.5
The area where you live	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.2	2.4	3.0	4.9	11.0	19.3	55.8
The way that you look	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.5	1.8	2.1	4.0	8.7	17.2	61.8

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 9 and 48 for 10 years old and between 8 and 35 for 12 years old

CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)

Table 34. CW-PNAS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.8	2.0	4.3	9.2	17.0	63.4
Calm	31.9	14.9	11.5	7.8	5.8	7.1	3.5	4.1	4.6	4.8	4.2
Full of energy	3.3	1.9	1.6	1.6	2.2	7.5	4.2	6.4	13.1	17.5	40.6
Sad	34.4	8.5	7.8	6.0	4.2	6.3	4.0	5.8	6.9	6.8	9.3
Stressed	0.9	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.6	4.5	7.9	11.7	65.3
Bored	22.6	8.5	7.7	6.6	5.8	9.0	5.1	6.7	7.0	6.9	14.0

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 24 and 77 for 10 years old and between 36 and 63 for 12 years old

CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)-

Table 35. CW- PSWBS items (12 year old) (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.6	3.4	10.0	17.8	62.4
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	2.3	0.5	1.2	1.8	1.6	3.3	3.4	7.7	10.9	20.3	47.1
People are generally pretty friendly towards me	1.2	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.1	2.8	2.2	3.7	11.8	21.4	53.4
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	1.8	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.6	2.6	2.9	5.1	9.9	17.6	57.1
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	4.3	1.4	0.8	3.0	1.5	6.2	6.7	11.6	15.7	18.9	30.0
I feel positive about my future	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.7	2.1	4.5	8.4	16.8	62.7

Note: Number of missing cases varies between 29 and 34

2.10 Children perceptions about their country

Table 36. Children's rights (%)

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have	No	12.2	6.4	4.1	12.2
	Not sure	35.4	16.5	16.7	35.4
	Yes	52.4	77.1	79.1	52.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	No	43.6	22.0	12.2	43.6
	Not sure	29.6	16.4	18.7	29.6
	Yes	26.9	61.6	69.1	26.9
	Total	12.2	6.4	4.1	12.2

Note: Number of missing cases is 35 and 36 for 8 years old, 26 and 30 for 10 years old, and 18 and 19 for 12 years old

3. Conclusions

Collecting children's views on their lives is a challenging process but also a rewarding one. Between March and September 2019 we collected more than 3500 questionnaires with children around ages of 8, 10 and 12 years. Data were collected from children based on a standardized questionnaire that was applied in Romanian and Hungarian languages (based on the teaching language). Active consent of the parents was asked and the response rate had an average of 73% for the second grade, 79% for fourth grade and 77% for sixth grade.

Children participated with great interest in the study. They gave positive answers to most of the results. The national averages of their satisfaction answers contrast with the situation of children in this country in which this group is subjected to high levels of economic difficulties as well as problems linked with health, participation in society, access to health and educational services. Several explanations were previously suggested, among those being *parental umbrella* (tendency of parents in less developed countries to protect their children against the economic harshness), *social desirability* (children think that they are expected to give positive answers in school context), and the *liveability theory* (the levels of satisfaction being determined not only by the offers of the society (i.e. material well-being) but also by its demands – highly competitive school systems rather decrease children's satisfaction).

Whatever the causes, these high levels of satisfaction decrease with age – our study shows. Satisfaction levels also decrease with the distance the object – from self and family to the relationships and local area. Urban-rural differences, as well as differences between children with different family backgrounds are apparent when analysing this data.

Overall, the gathered data is of excellent quality, allowing to compare the feelings and views of different groups of Romanian children about their situation in order to better understand the dimensions of their lives, their needs and sources of satisfaction and happiness.