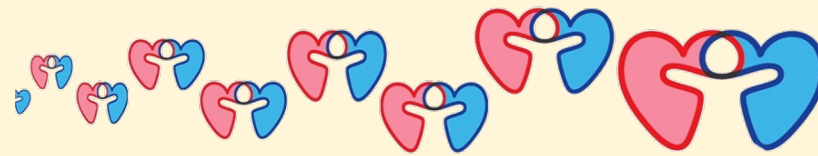




# Katalin Gal: The Road to sounds in Romania

Katalin is President of the Association for Hearing Impaired Children in Romania and is also a speech and language therapist and psychologist. She is very active supporting families in Romania where services have been limited for so long.



ASOCIAȚIA PERSPECTIVE  
PENTRU COPIII HIPOACUZICI  
ROMÂNIA

ASSOCIATION - ASOCIATIA - EGYESULET

---

# **The road to sounds – Advocacy activity in Romania**

**Katalin Gál**

---

# How we started the road to sounds...

- The first cochlear implant: March, 2000 in Iași
- The Cochlear Implantation Programme has been operating since 2004
- Universal neonatal hearing screening was introduced in 2015
- Cochlear implantation centers: 8
- Sound Processor Replacement programme from 2019



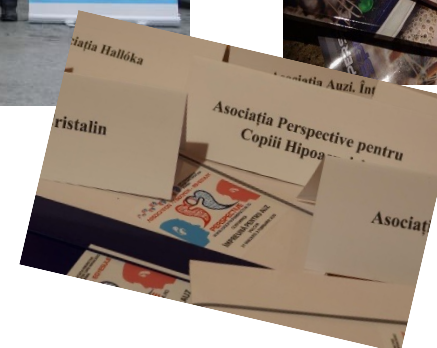


# National Advocacy – with small steps



- 2016 – the first step for Perspective Association for Hearing Impaired Children in Romania
- 2017- the second step: workshops, meetings with families and professionals, conference
- Founding a support association for the Hungarian parents: [Hallóka](#)
- The first joint advocacy action with all associations in the field for Sound Processor Replacement Programme
- 2018 – the biggest step: The first meeting of associations: "How to Build a Non-governmental Organization"
- 2019 – workshops
- 2020 – National conference of associations that support hearing impaired people in Romania with participation of Cochlear Implant Centers and Universities
- Perspective magazine

# The bridge that connects us...





# Advocacy for families – my activity

- From diagnosis to therapy
- Lack of professional teams – need to establish an institutional form
- To build a team for implantation and therapy process
  - Neonatologist doctor
  - Family doctor
  - Pediatrician
  - Surgeon
  - Audiologist
  - Family
  - Therapist
- The „new reality”
- The well-being of the child and the parents



# A straight road to sounds

Botond - a difficult start, but good evolution

Age: 3 years

HA: 5 months



# We are moving forward – my next advocacy goals

- The Newborn Auditory Screening database
- National Register of Cochlear Implants and Bone Anchored Hearing Systems
- Providing psychological support to affected families
- Specialist education on the field of auditory-verbal rehabilitation in Romanian Universities
- Professional teams
- Negotiations with the National Health Insurance House as regarding the refund of auditory-verbal rehabilitation therapies, insuring the post-warranty reparations as well as consumables for the devices

