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**REPORT ON THE  
REPORT  
ACTIVITIES**

**JULY - NOVEMBER 1947**

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**Submitted to the meeting of the  
Executive of the WORLD ORT UNION  
ZURICH, November 22<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>th</sup> 1947**

**ORT UNION**

**PARIS**

**GENEVA**

**November 1947**

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R U M A N I A

On the threshold of the new school year the Rumanian ORT has developed considerably, and its activity in both Bucarest and in the provinces has become greatly intensified. This has occurred in spite of two events of the utmost gravity that have taken place in the last few weeks. On the one hand, there is the irresistible push of Jewish masses across the national boundary, to seek refuge in Palestine, or elsewhere in the world, and on the other hand there is the financial reform which is of prime importance for the general economic and social structure of the country.

Since the war, the ORT work in Rumania has become of vital importance to the Jewish population in this country. It must not be forgotten that Rumania has to-day with more than 400,000 Jews the largest Jewish population in the whole of Europe.

Among these mainly unsettled people there are then of thousands of youths and unskilled adults, who find it here, as in every country nowadays, extremely difficult to maintain themselves. In the present scheme of economy in Rumania, the existence of unskilled persons is a legal as well as an economic impossibility.

Numerous ORT trade schools are functioning now in Bucarest (where at present 35% of the Rumanian Jews are living), Jassy (the capital of the former principality of Moldavia), Galatz (the largest Danubian port) and Botosani.

ORT is not now merely helping the young and adult pupils, but gradually changing the social basis of the Jewish communities. This is true of the emigrants as well as of the Jews who remain in the country.

It should be further stressed that the problem of orphans returning from the Trans-Dniestrian camps is especially acute. Their ages vary from 12 to 17, and the ORT has found it necessary to give them special instruction in order to place them on the same level as their less experienced comrades. Special courses have been created in order to give them the training they lack as quickly as possible. These courses include general instruction and pre-apprenticeship to a trade and are considered indispensable not only to the vocational preparation of the young people but also to their moral rehabilitation. Several hundred pupils are following the ORT courses at Jassy and at Bucarest. Most of them are showing an astonishing capacity for application and are making very rapid progress. Another category of candidates find themselves forced to support themselves and

their families; in many cases either the father, or both parents, have disappeared, and that often at an age when a normal child is accustomed to experience nothing but the love and solicitude of family life. These young people, both boys and girls, possess very disparate backgrounds, but like the others they have the desire to exchange their precarious existence for the security of a real manual skill.

As we have already stressed in our previous report, relief, for nearly the total number of the pupils, is an essential condition to the increase of constructive work by the Rumanian ORT.

Now convinced of the importance of a trade, many unskilled adults wish to follow ORT courses, but in most cases this is found to be impossible because of their obligations towards their families. The conferences with AJDC on this subject have as yet reached no conclusions. The Rumanian ORT has also prepared a program for the vocational training of invalids and cripples, victims either of the war or of deportation. The initial results of this program have shown that in spite of great difficulties it is a task of the utmost importance which deserves to be pursued with energy.

Finally, the vocational courses that were set up for students during the last school year have produced very satisfactory results.

At the end of the school year an exhibition was organized to display the work of the trade schools and workshops. This took place at Bucarest in July, and was greatly appreciated by numerous visitors among whom were included representatives of the management of large organizations.

#### BUCAREST

The acquisition a few weeks ago in Bucarest of a new building has been an important event, and now at last the housing crisis from which the Bucarest ORT has suffered is solved. The new building, which is situated at 37-41 Austruliri Str, is a former factory of modern construction and has an area of 4400 square yards. This space has been arranged to contain very large workshops, classrooms, the offices of the ORT Vocational Training Center, and the Administration of the Rumanian ORT. It will be possible to assemble in this space trade schools and workshops that were before dispersed in three different, cramped buildings. In the part that has already been completed, workshops for watch-making, mechanics, welding and carpentry are in operation. The Radio school and the Electricity school of Episcopul Radu are going to be transferred in the immediate future to the new building.

The results of the final examinations have not yet been established.

According to the most recent information, the Vocational Center of the Bucarest ORT included 1,005 students, distributed as follows:

Mechanics (for high-school students only, several groups)	240
Carpentry (for high-school students only, several groups)	160
Watch-making ( for high-school students only) . . . . .	64
Binding and Cardboard work. . . . .	137
Radio (1st and 2nd year) . . . . .	38
Carpentry (1st year) . . . . .	8
Mechanics (1st year) . . . . .	33
Binding (1st year). . . . .	15
Electricity (1st year) . . . . .	18
Watch-making . . . . .	16
Children's workshop for wood-work . . . . .	64
Children's workshop for cardboard work . . . . .	56

New students to the number of 156 are registered in the radio, mechanics, watch-making and electricity schools. A school for cutting and dressmaking for young girls will be opened at the end of the year for 70 students belonging to a section of WIZO.

JASSY

Schools already existing have been further developed, and new workshops have been added to old ones. At the beginning of the new school year the total of students was 460, distributed as follows:

Mechanics (several sections . . . . .	160
Electricity . . . . .	33
Men's tailoring . . . . .	13
Cutting and dressmaking for ladies (several sections) . .	240
Lingerie . . . . .	14

BOTOSANI

The ORT Center was opened in October as expected and already has 392 students registered in trade schools, as follows:

Mechanics . . . . .	145
Cutting and dressmaking . . . . .	161
Lingerie . . . . .	15
Carpentry . . . . .	46
Radiotechnics . . . . .	25

The large number of students registered has outrun our facilities. The Center is in need of more room and more technical equipment. Many students are registered on waiting lists. The students come from Botosani and its suburbs; the problem of board and lodging has presented many

difficulties which have been partially solved thanks to close cooperation with the OSE.

GALATZ

The exodus of the Jewish population has precluded any possible numerical growth. According to the latest information, the distribution of students was as follows :

Mechanics.....	43
Carpentry.....	19
	<u>62</u>

The school for cutting and dressmaking for young girls (formerly the Lumina School) is going to be opened, for 50 students, sometime in the next few weeks.

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In October, there were in the 48 schools, training workshops and courses of the Rumanian ORT 1919 pupils against 1094 in July.

\*

In the following towns registrations are being taken and instruction should begin in the near future.

Cluj (capital of Transylvania)

Cutting and dressmaking.....	65
Mechanics.....	42
Carpentry.....	18
	<u>125</u>
Total..	125

Oradea Mare (Grosswardein)

Mechanics.....	20
Carpentry.....	23
Lingerie.....	22
	<u>65</u>
Total..	65

Ploesti

Mechanics.....	40
Carpentry.....	30
Dressmaking.....	35
Lingerie.....	35
	<u>140</u>
Total..	140

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Following requests which have arrived from Rumania, and following conversations in Geneva with Mr. Aureliu Weiss, President of the Rumanian ORT, numerous machines, tools, instructional equipment etc. have been ordered in Switzerland for the Rumanian ORT. Several shipments are about to be sent off, including notably 6 lathes, 6 electrical saws, 6 grinding machines, 3 shaping machines, 3 universal milling machines, radio and electrical equipment and tools, etc.