



Beautiful teeth – healthy children

The Rotary dental care project in Romania



Plenty of toothpaste and teeth without any cavities! Romanian school children are the winners in a Rotary initiative for better dental care among children and youth in Romania. At least 70,000 children in 46 cities have benefited from the program thus far.

The basic concept is simple, based on the Swedish 2+2+2+2 model: two centimeters of fluoride toothpaste, two brushing sessions of two minutes each per day and letting the toothpaste residue remain in the mouth afterwards, with no food or drink consumed for the next two hours after brushing.

It's simple, yet still not obvious to everyone. In the mid-1990s, the Swedish Church initiated a preventive dental care project at a school in the city of Arad, in western Romania, where children's dental health was particularly poor.



In March 2002, Mölndal's Rotary took over the project. Among the members of the club, there was a high level of knowledge and experience in both dental care and running international collaboration projects. Swedish dental practitioners regularly visited Arad to promote preventive measures in dental care.

In 2009, Swedish Public Dental Care for Region Västra Götaland joined the project, adding valuable expertise and knowledge of large populations. In that same year, the initiative grew when pilot projects were started up in around 20 cities in Romania. By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, that number had grown to 46 cities.

Throughout this time, local dental care practitioners became actively involved as well. Teachers at the schools where the pilot projects were being run also started adding their support.



For the 2018-2019 school year, the project was planned to enter a new, three-year stage with focus on three regions in Romania. The strategy was for these regions to serve as role models for achieving a new vision of a national dental health program for all children in Romania, coordinated by the Romanian Government.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary to switch focus to direct regional control, with support from Rotary in Romania, during an initial academic year. Rotary will simultaneously be contacting the government and national health & school authorities to initiate transfer of the national dental healthcare program.

A registration program has been used to monitor the trend in tooth decay. We have been able to confirm a 50% reduction in caries frequency. At a school in Arad, where it all started, tooth decay is at the same low level as with children of the same age in Sweden.

The dental care project is being administered via non-profit organization which makes it possible for official funds to provide financial support.

For more information, please visit www.rotary.se/molndal or send an email to Göran Hammarskjöld: g.hammarskjold@telia.com

The project's PG number for donations: 69 07 00-0

