



agenda 21

**Asociatia de Asistenta
si Programe pentru
Dezvoltare Durabila**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Who we are:

Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21 is a Romanian non-governmental association, of national interest, not-for-profit, politically and religiously unaffiliated. The association was established in February 2003.

The *fundamental goal* of APSD - Agenda 21 is to support Romanian policies and efforts to promote and implement in Romania the objectives of Sustainable Development.

In order to achieve this goal, the organization's *mission* is:

- To develop partnerships with local authorities in order to valorize local initiatives and to increase efficiency of local governance;
- To promote human rights education activities, focused on civic education and democratic citizenship;
- To strengthen the role of social actors with high potential in enforcement of sustainable development: children and young people, local communities, private sector and business community, scientific community, mass media;
- To provide assistance and support for marginalized groups or groups at risk of social exclusion.

The *key concept* of APSD – Agenda 21 is the Sustainable Development. A secure and prosperous future can't be built without sustainable development.

The privileged *target groups* are children and young people. The education and development opportunities offered to children and young people are the guarantee of a sustainable society.

Volunteer activities in the benefit of the community are one of the association's *fundamental values*.



“I know that the door to progress can only be opened from the inside. That is why, together with the team of our organization, we look carefully upon every project we implement. Each accomplishment requires initiative, creativity, courage and perseverance. We walk down unbeaten paths. We follow our mission and we are not afraid of obstacles. We dream to develop our agenda as much as possible.

By the projects we have implemented, especially in the fields of education and public administration, we are convinced that the economical, social, political and institutional environment has become friendlier. Having as purpose a sustainable life, we believe that our work can be found in the coordinates of this country.

This is us: a team that moves on under the motto once stated by a wise man: «We don't conquer the mountains, but ourselves».” (PhD Alexandru Tasnadi – Economics Faculty within Economic Studies Academy, Bucharest, President of the association)”

The year 2011 – achievements and new developments

- ✓ In February 2011 we celebrated 9 years of existence.

*“In the **Argument** presented to the founder members in the first General Assembly, I was trying to define the association by those characteristics that made it a distinct entity in the Romanian civil*

society. I will mention a couple of the statements I made then and I will let the present Report to prove if they are sustained by the achieved results”.

Nina Cugler, Executive President

Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21 **aims:**

- **To implement projects** that respond to the real development needs on local level. Assistance programs to prepare the local communities for handling the new tasks related to their economic and social development, and especially for strengthening the institutional capacity and for developing citizens’ participative skills. Implementation programs to efficiently valorize the local resources and **to identify and obtain internal and external financing sources.**
- **To bring together experts** trained in project management and elaboration that work professional and honest and are a credible and trustworthy proof for those financing us concerning the use of the funds exclusively for fulfilling the objectives proposed by the project.
- **To pay a special attention to educating and training citizens** in order for them to understand the importance of their involvement, so they could be themselves the main actors of their town, village or community development process.

Speaking about the association, **Florina Pavel**, coordinator of young volunteers projects within the organization, stated:

“The success of this organization lies in the wish of changing the habit, still present in numerous communities, of complaining instead of taking action. The association’s image and brand are based exclusively on the team’s capacity to elaborate projects and strategies meant to give viable solutions to the local communities’ problems. The work of our volunteers, and especially the encouragement given to the youngest of them to express themselves and participate in the implementation of the projects, is one of the issues that give to the association the openness towards beneficiaries and credibility.”

- **APSD – Agenda 21 continued to co-work with the members of the Sustainable Development Promotion Network**, initiated by our organization, which aims, as stated by the 23 founder members, “to create a favorable context for making partnerships between the network’s members, to share experiences and to provide support and expertise in the field of sustainable development”. The network has an informal and open character. The network’s members can be non-governmental organizations, local authorities and public institutions.
- **APSD – Agenda 21 is a member of the Romania ENAR group (European Network against Racism)**, part of Europe ENAR Network, a network of NGOs that promotes the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, the equal treatment of European citizens and that connects the local, regional and national initiatives with the European ones.
At national level, the network aims at facilitating the exchange of information, experiences and good practices, the information process regarding the European policies on development, as well as at encouraging the dialogue between civil society and the EU Member States regarding the political agenda on racism and anti-discrimination.
- The association continued to work with the National Agency of Civil Servants, within the project “Innovation and quality in the public administration” for awarding the good practices in the public administration, 4th edition, 2011.
- The collaboration with partners from the European Union was extended. We **submitted** several applications as main beneficiary or as partner in programs of the European Commission, out of which 6 projects proposals submitted as partners on Europe AID financial programs and 3 project proposals within LLP programs: Comenius and Grundtvig.

- At the beginning of 2012 the association became **member of the Romanian Platform for Development Education – FOND**. The association is involved in the working group for the elaboration of the Development Education National Strategy.
- The collaboration with **MIJARC** an international non-governmental organisation for rural youth, by rural youth which promotes sustainable agricultural, rural and international development, European citizenship, youth policies, gender equality, environmental protection, inter-culturality and human rights was strongly developed in 2011. The young volunteers of the association attended 4 exchanges organised by MIJARC. The association received the status of observer member.

PROJECTS

1. MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REALIZATION

Involving high school students and educators in development education programs and projects

Description

Development education is one of Romania's obligations undertaken once joining the European Union that of defining and developing a national policy of international cooperation.

The main objective of the development cooperation policy of the European Union is **to end poverty in the framework of the sustainable development, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals**.

Romania has a **National Strategy of International Development Cooperation** based on values, principles and the European objectives on development cooperation.



Millenium Development Goals Realisation

INVOLVING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS
IN DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

This project is funded by the European Union

Development education is an active learning process, based on the values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and cooperation, which aims at increasing the involvement of citizens in the **process of ending poverty** of any kind and **promotion actions for social justice**.

The aim of the project is to involve students and educators from 4 UE countries and from the Republic of South Africa in the process of elaborating and promoting the development education programs. The themes approached will be correlated with 3 pylons from the National Strategy of development cooperation:

- ❖ **Social justice and ending poverty.** The main focus will be that poverty is not equivalent only with the lack of financial resources, but also with the lack of citizens' access to food, education, health services, employment, political decisions, and infrastructure.
- ❖ **Sustainable development:** "sustainable development is the development that aims at satisfying the current needs,

without compromising the next generations' possibility of satisfying their own needs.” (Brundtland report).

- ❖ **Good governance and the guarantee for respecting human rights.** The tight connection between poverty, fragile and / or non-democratic governance systems and the increase of the security risks will be taken into consideration. There is no development without good governance and the guarantee for respecting human rights.

The following will be taken into consideration:

- A better understanding of the Millennium Development Goals based on a human rights approach. How these goals reflect the global problems and what their realization will mean both at international level, as well as in the daily life of the people from the developing nations, especially from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The investigation and understanding of these global problems and the development processes in the framework of the global economical crisis. The young people will analyze the main causes of HIV/AIDS, discrimination, unequal opportunities, poverty, climate change and the obstacles to overcome these, as well as the local, regional and global plans for identifying solutions.
- The increase of the awareness level among young people in what concerns these problems and the increase of their capacity to initiate and actively participate, in partnership with the local communities, to actions meant to give answers to the global problems.

Period

December 2010 – June 2013

Objectives

- To create greater public awareness about Global problems and Millennium Development Goals among young people and among educators at community level.
- To develop and use the creative potential of young people so that they will be capable to initiate projects on themes related to global problems, human rights and millennium development goals.
- To build a support for the local policies on development issues with focus on poverty, discrimination and human rights.
- To establish communication networks between educators / teachers / local authorities and young people from developing and developed countries which will change the attitudes of the people involved in it.

Activities

The activities started to be developed on the **two specific components** of the project:

1. Training activities and formal education activities meant to support the realization of the **Development Education Curriculum**

- ❖ Training of trainers
- ❖ Training for educators at national level
- ❖ National level training for managers and representatives of partners and the civil society
- ❖ The elaboration and publication of the national and international “Development education” curriculum
- ❖ The elaboration of support materials
- ❖ “Football – a game without AIDS” documentary
- ❖ The Development Education Guide
- ❖ The Development Education Trainer’s Manual

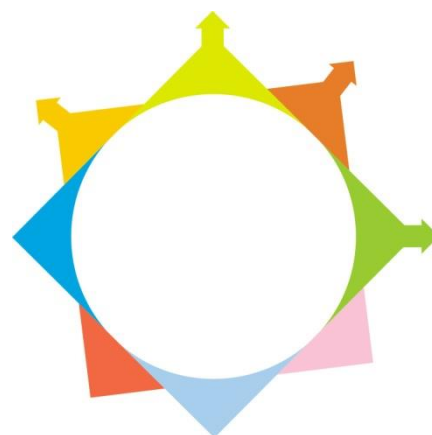
2. Activities with young people for the realization of development education projects at school and community level

- ❖ The realization of the Human Rights Olympic Games (international activity)

- ❖ The pupils and students projects (at national level);
- ❖ The bilateral projects developed between Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and the Republic of South Africa
- ❖ The elaboration and publication of a Projects' catalogue (projects of the young people)

Expected results

- The elaboration of a **Development Education Guidelines**, a **Development Education Trainer's Kit**, three **Country Development Education curriculum** (Bulgaria, Romania, Italy) and three Country Development Education packs (Bulgaria, Italy, Romania), an International Development Education Curriculum and International Development Education pack;
- Training sessions: training of trainers at international level on development education and curriculum elaboration; three national trainings on development education training and training course elaboration, as well as three national trainings for project managers on development education; the Human Rights Olympic Games;
- **A network of well trained and motivated 150 educators / teachers and university lecturers** which will introduce Development Education and the realization of MDG within the partner countries;
- **An increased level of awareness among 3.000 young people, high school students and university students** from the partner countries in what concerns development problems in the light of MDG and of the world economic crisis and an improvement in their ability to take action to deal with some of these problems at school and community level and to realize bilateral international projects with counterparts from developing countries;
- **Young people's activities:** 30 projects on development education that will aim at increasing the level of awareness in what concerns the development education problems in the developing countries. The activity will involve approximately 600 young people. 8 bilateral projects developed between students from Italy, Romania, Bulgaria and the Republic of South Africa.
- **80 policymakers and schools inspectors and representatives of civil society** trained on the application and the impact of the Development Education curriculum.
- **3 Country Development Education Conferences** (Bulgaria, Romania, Italy) on development education theme, **an International Development Education Conference** and **Students' "World Summit"** on MDG.



Results in 2011:

- 11 high schools selected, out of which 10 located in Bucharest and one in Ilfov county
- 2 partnership agreements signed with Bucharest and Ilfov School Inspectorates
- 11 partnership agreements signed with selected schools
- 68 teachers selected in the implementation team of the project in all 11 partner schools
- 1 public hearing implemented - 44 participants
- 5 participants at the international ToT
- 1 training with authorities and civil society representatives, implemented in two parts, with a total number of 70 participants attending the training
- 1 national curriculum meeting with 68 participants that facilitated the exchange of information and experience between the teachers involved in the process of curriculum development

Country training of teachers

The training was attended by 31 participants, out of which 5 trainers and 24 teachers participants in the training, representatives of the schools and the schools inspectorates.

The teachers had background in all 3 curricular areas:

I. Man and society (social sciences, religion, geography, history, sociology)

II. Science (math, physics, chemistry, biology)

III. Language and communication (Romanian and foreign languages)

Comments of the participants:

“My opinion is that this training fulfilled my expectations. My reasons are: the information we obtained was well structured and very well communicated; the activities per groups had benefits, as they were based on collaboration, assertive communication; professional trainers, as they approached in a very creative manner the modules of the training.”

“Through this training I realized there is a need for cooperation for solving problems that we are confronted with both on personal and on social level. The training fulfilled my expectations and I wish for collaborations just as good in the future. I want to congratulate the project team for the activity developed.”

Teachers training their colleagues and colleagues from the other schools

- 11 local trainings organized at school level with teachers
- 50 teachers trained within the school level trainings
- 11 trainings with the students and the makeup of the students teams at each school level
- 330 students trained at school level
- promotion of the MDS and development education within the schools

The national Curriculum on development education was elaborated, and it will be implemented as pilot in the 2012 – 2013 school year in the schools participant in the project. The model proposed by Romania has been transmitted to the partners in Bulgaria, Italy and Great Britain as a reference point for the elaboration of the development education programs in these countries.

The HIVsport film competition

Romania had three applications that passed the first round – from Gheorghe Sincai National College, Elena Cuza National College and Dumitru Motoc Food Industry Technical College. All three Romanian applicants developed the 5 minutes movies, based on the scripts submitted in the first phase.

The results were given in September 2011, and the judge panel decided that the Romanian application - 'Dribbled to a Second Chance' - group entry by Ioana Toma, Oleg Blajin and Emilia Apostu from Gheorghe Sincai National College will enter in the final documentary. Also, parts of all the other movie applications will be used in the final product. As for the winner from Romania, the judge panel appreciated:

“The many creative and innovative styling techniques utilized in this strong entry held the drama of the story throughout the film. It touched on many of the judging selection criteria - in other words - it was clear, well shot and on brief. The other factor that lifted it out from the crowd was the attention to the dangers of sharing needles - we liked that - as it's not just about sex. This film shows the dangers of recreational drugs and the repercussions of them, it is youth relevant and links HIV with sports well.”

Co-financed by

The European Commission through the program *Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development. Public Awareness and education for development in Europe*

Partners

Main applicant: Open Education Centre – Bulgaria

Partners:

Assistance and programs for sustainable development – Agenda 21 – Romania

Carrefour Europeo Emilia – Italy
HIVSports – UK

Associated in the project:

The Republic of South Africa - Nasila Selasini Rembe / UNESCO ‘Oliver Tambo’ Chair of Human Rights, University of Fort Hare

Local partners

The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports
Bucharest School Inspectorate
Ilfov County School Inspectorate
Bucharest City Hall and the city halls of the 6 districts
Romanian Radio Society
Media Technical College, Bucharest
Emil Racovita National College, Bucharest
Nicolae Kretzulescu Superior Commercial School, Bucharest
Anghel Saligny Technical College, Bucharest
Gheorghe Sincai National College, Bucharest
Gheorghe Lazar National College, Bucharest
Viilor Economical College, Bucharest
Dumitru Motoc Food Industry Technical College, Bucharest
Grigore Moisil National College, Bucharest
Elena Cuza National College, Bucharest
Ioan Petrus High School, Otopeni, Ilfov County

2. A DIFFERENT GENDER, AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Nature of the project

The aim was to implement a training course on gender equality through Human Rights Education using Gender Matters and Compass as main working tools, followed by workshops.

Location

Bucharest, Romania

Duration

October 2010 – July 2011

Activities

The project consisted of a training course for 20 young volunteers professionals within the Social Assistance and Child Rights Directorates from districts 1, 3, 4 and 6 in Bucharest and from Ilfov County that work with groups facing the risk of gender-based discrimination and domestic violence. The training was followed by workshops and the elaboration of a toolkit containing study cases and a methodology for the prevention and management of gender inequality situations.

The project aimed at reducing gender-based discrimination and promoting gender equality by involving young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Human Rights Education activities, using Gender Matters and Compass.

Objectives:

1. To promote **non-formal human rights education** as a tool for facilitating social inclusion
2. To develop a common understanding of the key concepts of **human rights with a focus on gender-based discrimination**
3. To introduce **Compass and Gender Matters** as tools for working on gender issues using a human rights approach

4. To experience with young people with risk of social exclusion Human Rights Education activities from Compass and Gender Matters dealing with **gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles**
5. To support young people's participation in the creation of **equal opportunities and fighting against discrimination** by cooperating with local public authorities.

Target group

- 20 multipliers, young volunteers professionals within the Social Assistance and Child Rights Directorates from districts 1, 3, 4 and 6 in Bucharest and from Ilfov County;
- 200 participants including young people facing the risk of social exclusion and gender-based discrimination, especially young girls;
- 5 Social Assistance and Child Rights Protection General Directorates from Bucharest and Ilfov County.



Results

The project was developed on the **theme of gender-based discrimination and domestic violence**. These main themes were approached during a **5 days training** course for young volunteers professionals within the Social Assistance and Child Rights Directorates from districts 1, 3, 4 and 6 in Bucharest and from Ilfov County that work with groups facing the risk of gender-based discrimination and domestic violence.

The experience of the training course was multiplied by the participants, each of the **21 participants conducting 4 workshops with institutionalized young people**. By educating young people on gender based discrimination and violence and by involving them in educational activities from Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters, the project aimed at promoting gender equality and preventing gender-based discrimination.

The following **methods** were **used**: group work, simulations, role plays, case studies on gender based violence provided by the participants themselves, ice-breakers and energizers, peer education, self-paced e-learning, educational activities from Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters. All these methods contributed to the innovative nature of the project, which was enhanced by the use of a manual on gender based violence affecting young people, project implemented in partnership with local public authorities, the first initiative of its kind in Romania. The group brought together youth workers from social assistance structures and direct beneficiaries of the social assistance services.

The participants worked with **young people** who were **beneficiaries of the social assistance services, living in orphanages, daycare centers, social residences, with very poor families, many of them victims of domestic violence or witnessing gender based violence**. Some of the young people had mental disabilities or were not normally developed for their age. The young participants to

the training were social assistants, youth workers employed in the social assistance services, psychologists, social counselors and beneficiaries of the social services. Their role was that of involving institutionalized young people in educational activities focusing on HRE, gender based discrimination and domestic violence. They used activities from Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters in order to make young people challenge the gender roles and stereotypes that they use.

In numbers, the project meant:

- ❖ 21 young volunteers and youth workers from the social services trained on Human Rights Education and gender issues
- ❖ 210 young people beneficiaries of different social services
- ❖ 4 workshops with 21 working groups
- ❖ 8 activities from Gender Matters translated in Romanian
- ❖ More than 20 activities experienced and adapted by the multipliers
- ❖ 5 Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection involved in the project from Bucharest and Ilfov County
- ❖ 300 copies of the Toolkit "A different gender, an equal opportunity" disseminated to 6 Sector Halls in Bucharest

The project reflected a common problem of the European society: **gender violence and especially domestic violence**. It gave the context for exploring the current situation on gender in Europe and comparing it to the situation in Romania. Various European documents on human rights and gender were analyzed such as: UDHR, CRC, CEDAW or the *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* adopted by the Council of Europe. The project also introduced European Human Rights Education working tools such as: Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters.

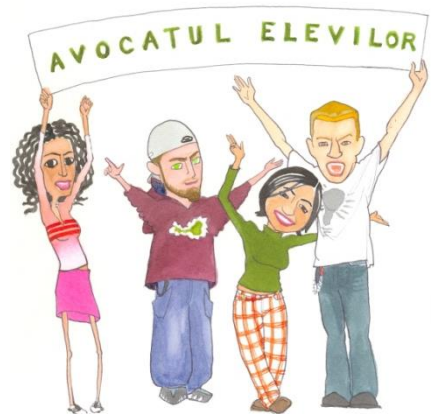
Co-financed by

Council of Europe, D-HRE budget line

3. STUDENTS' OMBUDSMAN (THE 5TH YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION)

Description

Students' Ombudsman is a program that aims to create and implement in schools an institution capable to assure the knowledge, promotion and respect for children and youth rights. Currently, the project is implemented in 300 schools from 25 counties. Starting with 2010, the project has been included in the Educational activities' calendar of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.



According to the Code of rules, Students' Ombudsman includes 7 persons, as following:

- 5 students – who automatically include the Students' Body President
- 1 teacher, usually the educational counselor
- 1 parent – named with the support of the Parents Committee President
- The coordinator of the Students' Ombudsman – a student, other than the Students' Body President

Responsibilities:

- ✓ To identify the problems / the infringement situations of students' rights;
- ✓ To facilitate the connection between students / parents and the management of the schools;
- ✓ To propose solutions in common agreement with the responsible teachers;
- ✓ To mediate the situations of conflict within the school, within the boundaries of the competences established by the Code of rules;

- ✓ The monitoring process to see how the problem was handled.

Period

January – December 2011



Activities in 2011

In 2011, the project included the thematic camp “**Students’ Ombudsman Summer School – a democratic experience of young people**” that was organized in Izvorul Muresului, during July 12th – 18th, 2011.

79 persons attended the camp: young people, teachers, lecturers, organizers, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and of the National Authority for Sports and Youth, from all counties, selected by APSD – Agenda 21 and by the MERYS.

The **aim** was to encourage the initiatives of young people for involving them in the life of the community by creating in schools a **Students’ Ombudsman** structure capable to set up in the pre-university education units a real culture of human rights, by responsible engaging the young people in this process and by cooperating with the schools managers and teachers.

Objectives:

- ✓ To train 55 young people, members of the National Students’ Body, as multipliers of information for the development of Students’ Ombudsman project in schools;
- ✓ To promote the exchange of good practices related to the development of the participative behavior of young people, who participate in the summer school;
- ✓ To develop the skills of the young people included in the structures of **Students’ Ombudsman** that would help them take responsibility and fight for their rights;
- ✓ To add up to the educational offer of school and family by involving young people as education providers;
- ✓ To develop volunteerism as expression of civic attitude and experience exchange.

Results

The activities included workshops with specific themes related to human rights, youth rights, communication and conflict resolution, education for a healthy life, alternative procedures for the dissemination of information and for setting up the ombudsmen teams (theatre, media, students’ rights caravan), examples of good practices from the schools that promoted the project.

A special session was dedicated to updating the Code of Rules of the Students’ Ombudsman based on the new laws: National Education Law and the Code of Rules of the National Students’ Body.

The trainers were selected from the experts that developed the project – teachers with expertise in the field of human rights, communication, education for health, who have the status of certified trainers by CNFPA.

The methods used were exclusively interactive, adapted to the specific of the activity and the target group and they included work on groups, play roles, case studies, interviews, practice of verbal and non-verbal communication techniques, presentation of public speeches etc.

The evaluation was realized both at the end of each activity, as well as by individual discussions and interviews. A final evaluation chart was completed in the end.

Representatives of Harghita County School Inspectorate participated in the official opening of the summer school: Mr. Ferencz Salaman Alpar Laszlo, General Inspector and Mrs. Erdei Lucica, Permanent Education Inspector. Mr. Gavril Chindea, Director of the National Izvorul Muresului Complex, attended the event.

Mr. Romeo Mosoiu, counselor of the Minister of Education, participated in the activities of the summer school in the period July 14th – 16th. He also coordinated the sessions for updating the Students' Ombudsman Code of Rules.

Testimonials of the beneficiaries



First day in the eyes of a participant

“Day 1, meaning July 13th, 2011, was quite a busy day considering the schedule, but the joy of meeting colleagues just as excited as me regarding Students' Ombudsman made me get over the fatigue of travelling from the day before, forget everything and, most importantly, to have the strength and desire to make new friends.

We worked on teams in the summer school. When I was told what team I am part of I was a little scared because I didn't really know anybody. I observed this phenomenon on the

other team colleagues.

Team no 2 began to work very well together in a short period of time, which made me get over my inhibitions and have the courage to express my self and my points of view related to the themes launched by the trainers of the two workshops.

As I said above, in a couple of hours we ended up knowing each other like we normally would have in a couple of days. Some told us about their problems, other told us about more cheerful staff, but more personal, things that maybe wouldn't have happened if we didn't feel so close to each other.

The coordinators of the communication and child rights workshops exceeded our expectations. Mrs. Silvia Ionescu, teacher, told us about our rights and Ms. Florina Pavel taught us that the most important factor of survival is communication. The participation in the two workshops was something new for us because the things we learnt and the methods used were related to the non-formal education techniques.

16 students, curios and ambitious, two exceptional trainers, an aula and a green space within the complex were the ingredients for a success recipe for becoming future successful Students' Ombudsmen.

What I experienced that day can't be expresses in a couple of lines, and the feelings remain in my mind and soul, as well as captured in some pictures.”

“This experience motivated me even more to get involved in this project”

“I liked the environment where the school took place as well as the WAY ... I am sure that what I learnt will be very useful for me in my activity as students' ombudsman in the following year”

“I liked it very much and I learnt a lot of useful things. From the experience exchange with the other schools I learnt how they implement the activities of the Students' Ombudsman program and I hope I can efficiently apply the information obtained in this period, especially considering that I am a “freshman” in this project”

“It was a new and unique experience, the beginning of the road for me as student’s ombudsman”

“I am honored that I participated in this summer school. Congratulations!”

Co-financed by

National Authority for Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports

Partners

The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports
Students’ National Council

4. HUMAN RIGHTS OLYMPIC GAMES

Description



Human Rights Olympic Games are already a traditional activity of Open Education Centre from Bulgaria, the first edition taking place in 2006. The themes approached are: tolerance, human and child rights, democratic values. In 2011, the event took place in Primorsko, Bulgaria. Romania was represented by a delegation of 4 young people and 1 leader.

Period

June 19st – 23th, 2011

Results

The impressions of the Romanian team were:

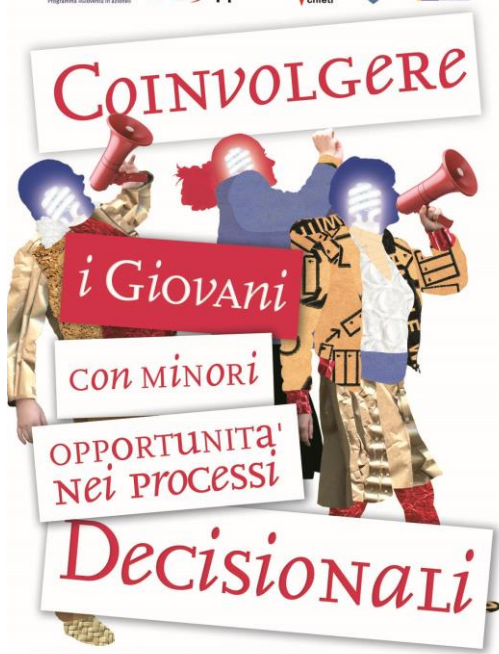
Andrei Saru – *“While in Bulgaria at the Olympics of Human Rights the thing that impressed me the most was the love everybody embraced me with, everyone was very friendly, very sociable, open minded and the thing I liked the most was nobody was judgmental.”*

Adrian Dumitru – *“I’ve realized that like us, they also have problems with the System, and this fact made us work more responsible and at the same time, find viable solutions for the problems ... In conclusion, I can say that this experience has helped me discover other ways of perceiving the information and at the same time find solutions.”*

Andreea Cristina Dutu – *“I have learnt different ways of combating the social injustice and the abuse of the human rights. The time that I have spent at Mr. “Rumen’s” house, cannot be compared with the classes which I attend at school. At his house, the courses were interactive and our schedule was well thought. I will miss that brake we all used to go to the beach. The fact that we were like a family, having fun, made everything very pleasant ... I was impressed by all the teachers that were there, but in particular by Mr. “Nasila Remba” – a teacher from South Africa, who was very intelligent and open minded, full of ideas. With this occasion I’ve learnt 2 -3 words in African. I’ve learnt that by helping others we can become a better person, regardless of race, color, sex. The main idea of this experience is that in order to make a change we must be united.”*

Emilia Anna Maria Ciodar – “First, I want to say that I'm so glad and happy that I participated to Human Rights Olympics, which took place in Primorsko, Bulgaria ... First, we presented ourselves and we got to know the other participants and the guests from South Africa and Kazakhstan ... The classes were very exciting and thrilling and we learn especially to work in groups. We learn a lot about the global problems, which was our final project: to chose a problem, to identify the causes, and also the solutions. Finally, we all win: we make new friends, and also, we gain experience. In my opinion, this was the most important achievement of this journey. I am looking forward to other activities prepared by Agenda 21.”

5. INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS



Description

The participation and social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities constitutes a priority at European Level. The Council of the European Union had requested to the Member States and the European Commission to give priority to these categories of young people according to the provisions of the Lisbon Strategy, of the measures of the European Youth Pact and the national strategies on youth participation. The vision of the European Union is reinforced by that of the Council of Europe, which restates in the *Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life* that young people are citizens of the present and not just citizens of the future and this is the reason why they should have access to all forms of participation in the society.

Aim

The project aims at strengthening the participation of young people with fewer opportunities to the life of their

community and at helping them achieve their maximum potential through volunteering and active participation.

Objectives



- Identifying and analysing the needs for participation to democratic life of young people with fewer opportunities with the help of young volunteers from all three partner countries;
- Recognising and valuing the participation experiences of young people with fewer opportunities at local level in the three countries involved in the project;
- Strengthening the participative democracy in the three countries by realising an exchange of

experiences and through non-formal learning with young people, public authorities and the civil society;

- Developing procedures and guidelines for strengthening the capacity of youth associations to act in order to improve the participation of young people with fewer opportunities;
- Promoting volunteering as a form of participation through which young people with fewer opportunities will be empowered to act in their own interest;
- Developing models and instruments for the different categories of actors involved in the participation of young people that can also be used by other groups of young people with fewer opportunities and including them in a Toolkit;
- Promoting the cooperation at European level in the field of the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, by creating a network between the participants involved in the project.

Duration

September 2011 – October 2012

Activities:

1st September –
31st December

1st January – 31st
July 2012

1st August –
31st October
2012

Preparation phase	Activities phase	Evaluation and follow-up
Strategy and methodology for needs assessment	Needs assessment study on the participation needs of young people with fewer opportunities	Follow-up meetings
Preparatory meeting	Local meetings	Launch of toolkit on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities
Selection and training of volunteers	International seminar	Dissemination of results

Main applicant

Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21, Romania

Partners

- Ilfov County Council, Romania
- Arci Nuova Associazione Comitato Provinciale Chieti, Italy
- Informagiovani Vasto, Italy

Direct beneficiaries in Romania and Italy

- 20 young volunteers
- 240 young people with fewer opportunities
- 6 experts responsible for local and regional level
- 240 young people acting as multipliers
- 16 young people with fewer opportunities taking part in the international seminar

Estimated results:

- Study on the need of participation to the democratic life of the community of young people with fewer opportunities;
- Exchange of experiences and good practices between the two countries, between young people, local authorities and the civil society;
- Young people with fewer opportunities using volunteering as a form of participation to the decision making process;
- Creating opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities to express their opinion and for their opinion to be considered in the decision making process.

Co-financed by

The European Commission through Youth in Action Program, Action 1.3. Youth Democracy Projects

6. IMPROVING YOUTH VOLUNTEERING THROUGH THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

Description

The project was implemented on several phases:

1. An online consultation process on the *Renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field*, concretely on priorities such as Youth employment and Volunteering, was addressed to the Young people of each organization’s community.
2. In order to share and learn from the experiences, young people from each country were asked to record short videos on volunteering activities that were developed in their communities and on local problems that could be solved by a volunteer activity.
3. The European seminar that took place in Seville, Spain, from 3rd to 8th October 2011, put together, on one hand, 36 young people and, on the other hand, 8 politicians responsible of the decision-making in the Youth field, coming from 9 different countries, in order to share good practices and establish a Structured dialogue, making use of methodologies based on the Non Formal learning principles.
4. The web page <http://all-in-vol.eu>, that has been created for the project “Improving Youth Volunteering through the Structured Dialogue”, to be used as a common platform for the young people and organizations from the different countries. This web contents a compilation of all the materials that have been used during the project, which, together with the Results Report will hopefully be useful for youngsters and organizations from all around Europe.

Aim

The main objective of this project is to contribute to raise awareness on the development of voluntary activities within the youth field, *following the recommendations given in the Council resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)*, by exchanging good practices and using the Structured dialogue between young people and those responsible for youth policy.

Objectives

- to increase and improve the EU youth volunteering activities
- to contribute with the local communities’ development, through the exchange of good practices and the structured dialogue between young people and those responsible of the decision-making.

Duration

May 1st, 2011 – January 31st 2012



Activities in Romania

APSD – Agenda 21 contributed to the online consultation process which was addressed to the local youth. The consultations concerned the *Renewed Framework for European Cooperation on Youth Policies*, and were mainly targeted to the priorities concerning the employment of young people and volunteering. In the next phase of the project participants made short videos of good practices identified on youth volunteering and local problems of their communities that could be solved through volunteering activities.

Between 3rd and 8th October 2011, four young volunteers and a representative of the County School Inspectorate Buzau attended the international seminar “*Improving youth volunteering through structured dialogue*”.

The four young people who represented APSD – Agenda 21 at the seminar were Florina Diana Pavel – projects’ coordinator for APSD-Agenda 21, Alexandra Ioana Pascu – volunteer, Daniela Petre – volunteer and Mihai Radu Potirniche, volunteer. The four participants were selected from among 50 young people who completed an online survey on volunteering and structural dialogue in Romania. The participants’ selection was based on the following criteria: involvement in similar projects of the association, advanced knowledge of English, availability of time and expressed interest, volunteering experience, gender balance, ability to support 50% of the transportation costs. All the participants saw the seminar as an opportunity to learn about volunteering, structured dialogue, good practices on volunteering in the other participating countries, and a unique cultural experience.



The volunteers were joined by Ms. Paula Mihai, school inspector on education, Buzau County School Inspectorate, as representative an institution with power of decision at local and national level. Ms. Mihai presented during the seminar two best practices developed in Romania, namely the youth volunteering program: *the National Strategy on Community Action* and *the National Antidrug Program – Together*.

The project ended with a large-scale dissemination campaign, held at European level, to share the results and to promote the use of the website by other organizations and by other young people, encouraging European cooperation on youth issues.

Testimonies of the Romanian beneficiaries

Alexandra Pascu: “*I attended the seminar because it gave me the opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices on volunteering. I expect this project to create a favorable development of a potential cooperation between the participating organizations on improving volunteering*”.

Daniela Petre: “*My motivation to participate in this seminar was the wish to find new recommendations on how to improve the development of my community through volunteering and active involvement of young people. My expectations are that at the end of the seminar there will be a*

genuine exchange of best practices between the participating organizations, through the use of efficient communication between young participants and decision makers”.

Partners:

Gantalcalá (Spain)
Dobrovolnické Centrum (Czech Republic)
ENL (Estonia)
Evosmos Municipality (Greece)
Naples Municipality (Italy)
SOS Malta (Malta)
APSD - Agenda 21 (Romania)
Linköping Municipality (Sweden)
Black Boys Can Association (UK)

Co-financed by

The European Commission through the Youth in Action Program, Action 1.5 – Meetings of young people with youth policies decision makers

7. LET’S TAKE CARE OF THE PLANET



Description

The *Let's Take Care of the Planet* project was born out of the initiative of the Brazilian Ministry of Education, which organized **the first International Conference of Children and Youth**, from 5 to 10 June in Brasilia, on the themes of “**responsibility and environment**”. It brought together 350 youth delegates aged from 12 to 15, from 47 countries. National processes enabled thousands of young people to do research on sustainable development, to debate and to contribute to the creation of a **Charter of Responsibilities**, which is a true medium for action. In November 2010, this Charter was presented to the President of the European Council and to the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

The Young Europeans *Let's Take Care of the Planet* project **aims to encourage dialogue between young Europeans on sustainable development issues** and to **enhance their capacity for action and commitment in order to move towards sustainable societies**. This project is in line with the objectives of education for sustainable development and for international citizenship. By giving young people the means to take into consideration the entirety of a situation, it prepares them to debate socially important issues in such a way that they can take a stance in an enlightened way and implement considered actions.

General objectives

- In Europe, to reinforce the socially responsible impetus and commitment of the young citizens on the issues related to a sustainable development
- To give concrete continuity to the international process initiated by the Brazilian Ministry of Education, by contributing to diffuse, open debate and implement the international Youth Charter - Let's Take Care of the Planet - that was jointly written by youth from 47 countries, in Brasilia in 2010

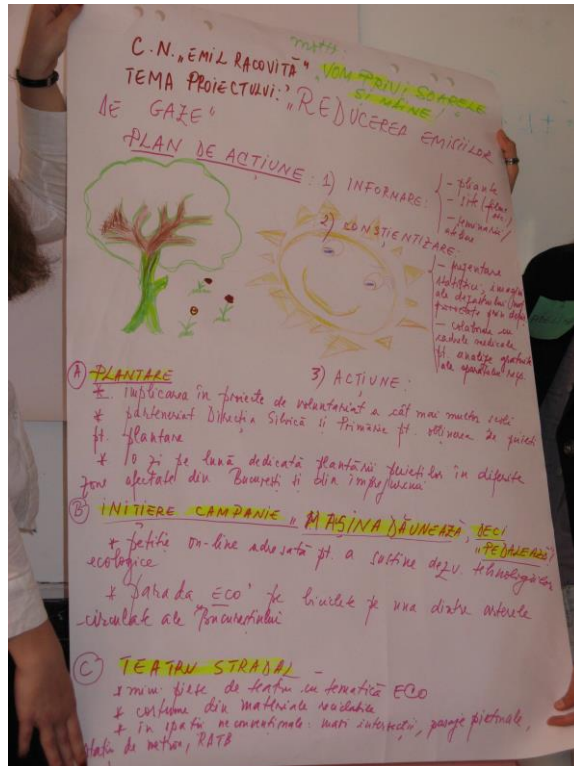
- To allow the European young people to express their ideas to political and economic local actors, and to international authorities
- To Bring a contribution of the youth to Rio+20 event

Duration

November 2011 – May 2012

Activities

The Young Europeans *Let's Take Care of the Planet* (YECP) project is part of the continuity of this process. Two years after the International Conference, **a European Conference will be organized in Brussels in May 2012**. It will enable the **bringing together of young delegates** from around ten European countries and it will be the culmination of the **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) projects** carried out by young people locally. The work



topic for the various countries, chosen collectively is: **“Sustainable Schools and Territories”**. What are the interactions between a school and a territory? How does a territory affect a school, and conversely, how does a school contribute to shaping a territory?

Educational activities:

- Topical **enquiries** and **research**
- **Debates** (with scientists, local authorities, all related sector) on the project topics’ issues and youth commitments
- Definition and implementation of **local actions**
- Elaboration of **artistic productions**
- Collective writing of an **Open letter to political decision-makers** in view of Rio 2012
- **Election of youth delegates** by the youth
- **Preparation** of and **participation** to local, regional, national, international **conferences**

Conferences

- **Local Conferences** in November – February 2012, in schools and extracurricular organizations
- **Regional/National Conference** in brief in February – March 2012, in each involved region and/or country
- **European Youth Conference** will take place in Spring 2012 in Brussels, Belgium with 100 – 120 young delegates, facilitators, guests and speakers from 17 European countries

APSD – Agenda 21 is the national coordinator for the activities in Romania.

Expected Results

Co-writing by the youth of a **European Open Letter** to the decision makers, elaboration of **communication tools** on the youth commitments, **contribution to Rio + 20**, collaboration between youth and local/regional councilors, artistic exhibition on the youth local commitments.

Partners

Mondel Pluriel – France – coordinator
 Foundation Charles Léopold Mayer
 French Regional Education Offices

Participating countries: Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

Financed by

The European Commission – Youth in Action Program
The European Union – The Committee of the Regions
The Rhône-Alpes Region
The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

8. THINK OF EUROPE TO FACILITATE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS!

Description

Who is not concerned with youth unemployment and the current problems on the labour market? How do problems differ from rural areas to urban areas? Is there a way to change this situation?

30 young people asked themselves these questions and tried to give answers during a training course that was held in Paris, France. The training course ” **Think of Europe to facilitate youth employment in rural areas**” was organised by MRJC (Rural Movement of Christian Youth) and MIJARC Europe (The International Movement of Catholic Agricultural Rural Youth), in partnership with organizations from Portugal, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania.

Duration

December 15th – 18th, 2011

The **aim** of the project was to activate rural youth to build sustainable rural areas and to contribute to the development of volunteering and employment opportunities for rural youth. Three working groups brought their contribution to achieving this aim: ”Common Agricultural Policy”, ”European Voluntary Service” and ”Youth (un)employment”.



Activities and results

The participants from the ”Common Agricultural Policy” talked about whether this policy helps or not the young farmers, what is its impact at local level and how can young people from rural areas promote an agriculture which creates employment opportunities for young people.

Those taking part to the ”European Voluntary Service” analysed how EVS can be a way to acquire competences and how this experience can contribute to increasing the employment opportunities.

The young people working in the ”Youth (un)employment” group presented the realities on youth employment in their countries and compared these realities with the situation at European level. They tried to identify the causes for such a high rate of youth unemployment and to formulate recommendations for improving this situation.

All three groups benefited from meetings with organisations and associations from France, with whom they were able to interact during field visits.

APSD-Agenda 21 was represented to the training course by 4 young volunteers who come from rural areas or work with young people from rural areas.

Co-financed by

The European Commission through Youth in Action Program

The Volunteers Network

By the projects it implements, APSD – Agenda 21 aims, among others, at raising the Romanian citizens' level of civic involvement, offering to persons from all ages, social, professional etc. groups the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of the environment they live in.

Especially young people are encouraged to get involved in the association's projects, thus contributing to their personal and professional development. By getting confronted with new situations, by actively participating in the process of transforming the society they live in, by acknowledging the importance of their involvement, these become responsible citizens.

Grants

In 2011, APSD – Agenda 21 obtained grants from:

- ✓ European Commission through Youth in Action program
- ✓ European Council through the European Youth Foundation, D-HRE budget line
- ✓ European Commission through the program EuropeAid, Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development. Public Awareness and education for development in Europe
- ✓ The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports
- ✓ The National Authority of Sports and Youth
- ✓ The European Union – The Committee of the Regions
- ✓ The Rhône-Alpes Region
- ✓ The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

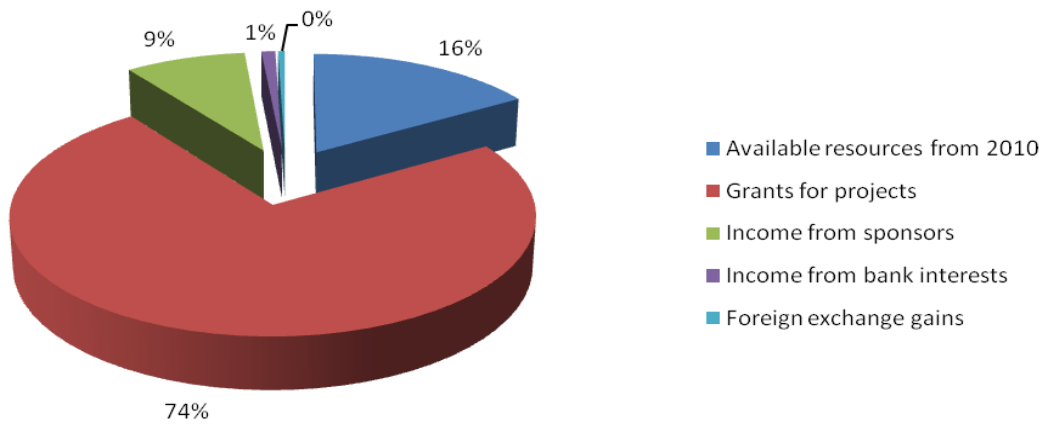
FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

Available resources	RON	EURO
Available resources from 2010	57,155.44	13,231.34
Grants for projects	258,683.44	59,884.58
Income from sponsors	29,940.49	6,931.15
Income from bank interests	3,460.06	801.00
Foreign exchange gains	1,687.57	390.67
TOTAL	350,927.00	81,238.74

Resources used	RON	EURO
Resources available at the end of 2011	92,058.20	21,311.25
Projects' expenditures	246,586.55	57,084.18
Bank commissions expenses	1,710.90	396.07
Foreign exchange expenditures	2,604.49	602.93
Amortizations	3,154.45	730.25
TOTAL	346,114.59	80,124.68

Cash available	RON	EURO
Balance at 31.12.2011 RON	63,919.80	14,797.28
Balance at 31.12.2011 EURO	28,138.40	6,513.97
TOTAL	92,058.20	21,311.25

Available resources



Resources used

