



Working together for a **green, competitive and inclusive** Europe

The project "**Our voice counts!**" is implemented by the Association Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21 in partnership with The National Association of Librarians and Public Libraries in Romania, the Association Startlight Petra and Norsensus Mediaforum Norway, and benefits from a 88.430,24 euros grant from **Active Citizens Fund Romania**, programme funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014 -2021. The content of this material does not necessarily reflect the official position of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021; for more information visit www.eeagrants.org. More details about Active Citizens Fund Romania are available at www.activecitizensfund.ro.

The aim of the project is to change the mentalities and attitudes of citizens of Bucharest, Buzau and Ramnicu Sarat through advocacy activities that promote human and children's rights, designed to combat stereotypes, prejudices and exclusion practices that affect children and young people with hearing and vision impairments and their families.

Duration: August 1st, 2021 – September 30th, 2022

Beneficiaries: 940 children and young people with visual and hearing disabilities, from 7 schools.

Indirect beneficiaries: students from 10 mainstream schools, teachers, parents, citizens, NGOs, collaborators, experts, decision makers. Approximately 5,000 final beneficiaries estimated.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Increasing the skills of vulnerable groups to dialogue with decision makers, to be able to get involved in decision-making processes, to claim their rights and to participate in community life.
- ✓ Innovative and integral approach of inclusion, in which the beneficiaries themselves are involved, and will become creators of 50 original digital stories.
- ✓ Promoting volunteer activity, by involving 25 volunteers from seven public mass education schools and four public libraries.
- ✓ Increasing the financial capacity and multiplying the income sources of the association, as well as disseminating the results of the project, by organizing a fundraising event.

Training activities

❖ Training of volunteers

A 3-day training with 3 modules for 25 volunteers: presentation of the particularities of the target groups and the strategic documents that underlie the human rights, children rights, the rights of vulnerable persons; the experience of involving Norwegian volunteers in actions to protect human rights, with priority given to the vulnerable; climate change and the importance of involving young people in environmental protection.

❖ Training of target groups

- A two 3-day training courses organized in Bucharest and Buzau with 28 children and young people, teachers / training course. Participants will learn human, child and people with disabilities rights, and about advocacy activities to promote their rights. Another module will be dedicated to climate change and environmental protection.
- Subsequently, the participants will be training their peers in schools, organizing a training in each of the 7 special education units. Total beneficiaries: 105 children and young people.

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Research activities

Report on citizens' perception on people with disabilities, their rights, with a focus on the target groups of the project and proposals for preventing rights violations. The questionnaire will be applied to a number of 1,200 citizens from the 3 locations: Bucharest, Buzau and Ramnicu Sarat.

2 opinion poll questionnaires, initial and final, to identify the degree of knowledge of human rights, applied in the 14 schools involved in the project

Awareness and advocacy campaign

- 14 workshops with children and young people from the 7 special schools to identify barriers to social, professional and educational inclusion.
- 1 workshop in Bucharest for the elaboration of the Position Paper based on the documents elaborated in schools. The document will be forwarded to the Geneva Human Rights Committee, members of the Senate and responsible central and local authorities.
- 10 awareness sessions in mainstream schools - volunteers together with a successful person with disabilities, will go to 10 schools in Bucharest and Buzau County to provide information about people with visual and hearing impairments and the importance of their integration into society.

Digital stories

The activity proposes the use of digital storytelling techniques by people with hearing and vision impairments. Beneficiaries will be encouraged to create their own stories, using videos, texts, photos and other tools. A total of 50 digital stories will be produced and included in a Guide. A synthesis with the most successful stories will be transcribed in braille.

Street event – public campaign with focus on vulnerable groups

- 3 public campaigns lasting 1 day, in the 3 locations - the design will be made by 14 representatives of the target group and volunteers, who will design together the specific elements of the public campaign
- Guests - 15 NGOs working with people with disabilities.
- 2 workshops with 30 citizens participating in the event will be organized for the presentation of digital stories.
- Digital stories projected on the billboard

Information and communication activities

- Launch and final conference
- 10 radio shows dedicated to the project
- Information on the partner's websites and on social media
- Promotional materials: posters, flyers, banners, t-shirts

Organizational development activities:


Increasing the financial capacity and multiplying the sources of income of the association, as well as disseminating the results of the project, by organizing a fundraising event and translating the annual report into English, so as to expand at European level the level of information on how Active Citizens Fund supports capacity building of non-governmental organizations.

Local partners

Bucharest:

- ❖ "Regina Elisabeta" Special Technological High School
- ❖ Special Gymnasium School for the Visually Impaired
- ❖ Special Technological High School no. 3
- ❖ Special Gymnasium School for the Deaf no. 1
- ❖ Technical College "Anghel Saligny"
- ❖ National College "Emil Racovita"
- ❖ "Ion Neculce" National College

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Iceland 

Liechtenstein **Active**

Norway **citizens fund**

- ❖ Theoretical high school "Lucian Blaga"
- ❖ National Library of Romania
- ❖ Bucharest Metropolitan Library

Buzau:

- Special High School for the Visually Impaired
- Special Technological High School for children with hearing impairments
- "Spiru Haret" National Pedagogical College
- "Mihai Eminescu" National College
- "V. Voiculescu" County Library Buzau

Ramnicu Sarat

- ✓ Râmnicu Sărat Inclusive Education School Center
- ✓ Râmnicu Sărat Theoretical High School
- ✓ Municipal Library "Corneliu Coposu" Râmnicu Sărat

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