



agenda 21

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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 2010 – Figures and achievements

✓ In May 2010 we celebrated 8 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.”

The association continued its partnership with the National Agency of Civil Servants in the field of the prevention and fight against corruption, of institutional transparency and involvement of citizens in the decision making process, by promoting a public – private partnership, capable of developing models in the field of public administration reform, focused on the issues related to the fight against corruption, transparency, ethics, the provision of quality services.

Through the project “Strengthening environmental governance in Bucharest”, the association ensured the necessary framework for a process of updating and completing the strategic documents necessary for an efficient management of environment protection in the capital, as well as for the elaboration of a Toolkit for eco-servants. This toolkit is an important resource for the civil servants as it includes the most important legislative issues on environment, examples of good practices, including the Romanian – Norwegian partnership created through this project.

- **APSD – Agenda 21 continued to co-work with the members of the Sustainable Development Promotion Network**, which aims, as stated by the 24 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 collaboration with partners from the Member States was extended.

Important figures:

- ❖ Over 20.000 beneficiaries of the implemented projects;
- ❖ Over 100 media reports;
- ❖ The elaboration of the *Citizens' view on corruption in the public institutions: causes, practices, prevention* study;
- ❖ The elaboration of the *Environment quality in Bucharest in citizens' view* survey;
- ❖ 16 public authorities and institutions from Cluj, Dolj, Ilfov, Harghita, Neamt counties and from Bucharest are promoters of the public – private partnership model of monitoring the prevention and fight against corruption;
- ❖ 6 Local Action Groups established in Bucharest and Cluj, Dolj, Ilfov, Harghita, Neamt counties for the prevention and fight against corruption;
- ❖ 42 volunteers trained to act as actors of change in the field of fighting against corruption and environment protection;
- ❖ 600 civil servants involved in the association's projects;
- ❖ The elaboration of the Environment strategy and the making up of a Technical Committee for the planning and elaboration of the Action Plan for the Quality of Air in Bucharest;
- ❖ The elaboration of a Toolkit for eco-servants, a compendium of laws, tools, methodologies, standards and good practices for supporting the decision makers in the elaboration of the public policies in the field of environment protection;
- ❖ Over 5.000 young eco-volunteers involved in environment protection activities and in the implementation of *Clear the Air in Bucharest* campaign;
- ❖ Over 350 young eco-volunteers trained in the field of sustainable development, human rights, developing a healthy life style and project writing on themes specific to environment protection;
- ❖ The making up of a network with Norwegian partners that allows the exchange of good practices and the common participation at environment activities, focused on the problems produced by climate change;
- ❖ 20 multipliers trained for using tools for educators on human rights: the Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters manuals;
- ❖ Over 2.000 photos submitted in the *Eco-itineraries through Bucharest* competition;
- ❖ Over 12.000 materials (flyers, booklets, compendiums, studies etc.) distributed within the information activities for citizens.

Projects

1. CORRUPTION CONCERNS US ALL!



Description

The project aimed at creating a model of public-private partnership between institutions / local public authorities and the civil society with a view to prevent and fight against corruption, by establishing monitoring mechanisms on how the legislation and the National Anticorruption Strategy are put into practice in 16 institutions and local public authorities from Cluj, Dolj, Ilfov, Harghita and Neamt Counties and from Bucharest. The main activities included the training of 320 civil servants, the involvement of 30 young volunteers in the initiatives of the project, conducting a study on the perception on corruption, the transfer of know-how and good practices from Europe, the creation of 6 local action groups for preventing and fighting against corruption.

Period

January 2010 – November 2010

Objectives

General objectives:

- Increasing the involvement of nongovernmental organizations in the prevention and fight against corruption at local level, as well as the promotion of integrity and ethics, transparency, responsibility and good governance;
- Creating a partnership model and an efficient collaboration between institutions/local public authorities and the civil society with a view to prevent and fight against corruption;
- Educating the citizens in order to get them actively involved in identifying and fighting against cases of corruption;

Specific objectives:

- Identifying and experimenting mechanisms for the civil society to monitor how the provisions of the National Anticorruption Strategy are put into practice in the 16 institutions and local public authorities included in the project;
- Training of trainers for 32 civil servants in order for them to conduct 16 training session in their own institutions, aimed at discouraging the practices of corruption and to ensure the implementation of norms of transparency and conduct based on ethic principles;
- The transfer of expertise and know-how from one member state of the EU, Belgium, on drafting anticorruption plans and educating citizens;
- Encouraging volunteering in the fight against corruption, by involving 30 representatives of the civil society in the process of monitoring initiated through the project;
- Creating through the project a Compendium of good practices for the fight against corruption at local level that will include model plans, anticorruption commitments of the top management and analyses and evaluations of situations at risk or vulnerable to corruption, as well as standard and integrity indicators.



Activities

- The selection and training of 30 volunteers;
- The training session of civil servants;
- The elaboration of a study on citizens' view on corruption and their proposals for the prevention and fight against this phenomenon;
- The local level training sessions of the civil servants;
- The making up of the local action groups for the prevention and fight against corruption;
- The public debates "Transparency and integrity in the local public administration";
- 5 radio shows broadcasted on Romania Cultural Radio;
- The elaboration of the Good practices compendium for the fight against corruption at local level;
- The final conference.

General results

- ❖ The project proposed a private – public partnership, capable to promote models in the field of public administration reform, focused on issues related to the fight against corruption, transparency, ethics, the provision of quality services.
- ❖ Another important result is related to the involvement in the project's development process of a great diversity of factors and human resources: citizens, civil servants, representatives of the civil society, NGOs, mass media, public institutions, academic institutions. Their selection was made so that to achieve the proposed objectives and to obtain a maximum impact and efficiency through the project's results.
- ❖ The project contributed to the increase of the civil society's role in the fight against corruption, to strengthening the local public authorities and institutions capacity to produce a real institutional reform, transparent and focused on citizens' needs.
- ❖ The model proposed by the project was realized with the support of the civil society (volunteers, NGOs, citizens) which grants it an increased level of objectivity and promotion of the democratic principles, equal opportunities and non-discrimination.
- ❖ Another important result of the project was the introduction of monitoring mechanisms for citizens and civil society for the anticorruption measures, the elaboration of the prevention and fights against corruption plans for the local public administration and for participating in the training of the staff from public authorities and institutions, especially those on public positions at high risk and with increased vulnerability to corruption acts.
- ❖ The experience obtained in the project was disseminated at national and European level. In this context, new contacts were made for assuring the sustainability of the project and its development with new partners.

Some of the conclusions of the *Citizens' view on corruption in the public institutions: causes, practices, prevention* study show that:

- 36,9% of the interviewed people stated that they know corruption cases, through their personal experience or from the local media: 86,2% have examples (21% refer to politicians).
- 73,54% of the citizens mention mass media as a trustworthy source of information in what concerns corruption. Only 14,36% identified public institutions as trustworthy sources of information related to corruption acts.
- 80% of the citizens associate the government and the central institutions with corruption, to a large and very large extent; the city hall is associated with corruption by 57,8% of the citizens; and the Prefecture by 56% of the interviewed people.

- The factors that encourage corruption: the deficient legislation is mentioned by 65,1% of the citizens; the incorrect remuneration (63,1%); the inefficient management of the institutions (42,2%); the lack of evaluation, monitoring and control mechanisms for the activities (41,9%); the lack of competences (28%); the deficient continuous training system 22,2%).



Quantitative results:

- ✓ 16 public authorities and institutions from Cluj, Dolj, Ilfov, Harghita, Neamt counties and from Bucharest are promoters of the public – private partnership model proposed by the project for monitoring the prevention and fight against corruption;
- ✓ 30 volunteers trained as actors of change in the field of fight against corruption;
- ✓ 33 civil servants trained as trainers;
- ✓ 2381 printed copies of the *Corruption concerns us all!* flyer used in the information and dissemination activities;
- ✓ 1000 printed copies of the *Corruption concerns us all!* poster used in the information and dissemination activities;
- ✓ 2 press conferences, 70 media reports;
- ✓ 1.200 citizens interviewed in all 6 locations of the project;
- ✓ 537 civil servants trained within 16 local training sessions;
- ✓ 500 copies of the *Citizens' view on corruption in the public institutions: causes, practices, prevention* study were printed and distributed;
- ✓ The code of rules for the Local Action Groups;
- ✓ 6 Local Action Groups in Bucharest and Ilfov, Cluj, Dolj, Neamt and Harghita counties;
- ✓ 6 local public debates;
- ✓ 246 participants at the public debates;
- ✓ 6.000 listeners of the 5 radio shows dedicated to the project, broadcasted within the "European Integration Files" show on Romania Cultural Radio;
- ✓ 500 copies of the *Prevention of corruption through innovation and quality in the public sector* good practices compendium were printed and disseminated;
- ✓ 160 participants at the final conference;
- ✓ The dissemination of the project's results at national and European level (31 counties and 4 countries: Belgium, Holland, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

Co-financed by

The European Union, through the Transition Facility 2007 – Strengthening the civil society support in the fight against corruption program

Partner

The National Agency of Civil Servants

Local partners:

The County Councils from Cluj, Dolj, Harghita, Ilfov and Neamt

The City Halls: Baile Tusnad, Buftea, Cluj - Napoca, Craiova, Dej, Otopeni, Piatra Neamt, Poiana Mare, Roman and Vlahita

Bucharest 6th district City Hall

Associates

Testimonials of the beneficiaries

"The County Council is and will always be open to such activities that have an absolutely positive aim, respectively to permanently raise the awareness of those paid from public funds that they are serving the citizen." Vasile Pruteanu, president of Neamt County Council

"I think that the Local Action Groups will play an important part in the process of making the prevention and fight against corruption activities more efficient. In Ilfov County, the group is formed by 15 members, named both from local public authorities and from the civil society, priority being given to representatives of local NGOs, mass media and the business community." Daniela Grecu, Counselor, the European Integration and Reform Department, Ilfov County Council

2. STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN BUCHAREST

Description

The project entailed a more sustained involvement of the civil society in the process of strengthening the institutional capacity of the local authorities for elaborating environment strategies and in the process of raising citizens' level of awareness in what concerns environmental issues within the community they live in and also working together with the public authorities for identifying and applying proper solutions.



Period

July 2009 – December 2010

Objectives

- Strengthening environmental governance in Bucharest, by importing the know-how offered by the Municipality of Askim, Norway;
- Educating the citizens, especially young people, to adopt a behavior characteristic of a sustainable life style.

Activities

- ❖ to realize a survey on Bucharest's citizens' view and their proposals regarding the identified environmental issues;
- ❖ 2 training sessions sustained by 5 Norwegian experts for 30 civil servants from the environment departments / directions from Bucharest City Hall, Bucharest Environment Protection Agency, Bucharest Environment Committee;
- ❖ to update the local Strategy and Plan of action for the environment (PLAM) for Bucharest based on the activity principles and directions. The focus was to decrease the greenhouse effect produced by gases emission and other emissions in Bucharest air and waters;
- ❖ to produce a Toolkit for eco-servants, a compendium of laws, tools, methodologies, standards and good practices that support the decision

making bodies in the elaboration of public policies in the field of environment protection;

- ❖ 3 Romanian experts invited to Norway, to participate in the National Conference on Climate Change at regional level;
- ❖ a 3 days study visit to Askim, Norway, for 2 Romanian experts;
- ❖ 2 meetings for 12 young leaders organized in Bucharest, for identifying the activities young people could get involved in as main actors of change;
- ❖ The implementation of the Clear the Air in Bucharest campaign – a public information campaign for raising the awareness of Bucharest citizens in what concerns the environment;
- ❖ trainings for students and pupils (approximately 300 participants within 4 activities) for adopting a sustainable life style and for developing skills to develop projects for the community they are part of;
- ❖ to realize a 3 days Environment Event, organized by young people from Bucharest for convincing their co-habitants to adopt a healthy and friendly behavior in what concerns the environment they live in;
- ❖ to make up a network with partners from Norway, in order to create the premises for good practices exchange and to participate in common to activities regarding the environment, focused on the problems produced by the climate change.



Results

VALUABLE EXPERIENCE given by Innovation Norway and Askim City Hall Norway, obtained by:



- ❖ Study visit in Norway for 2 Romanian experts from Bucharest City Hall;
- ❖ The training addressed to civil servants and educators involved in the project, held between June 14th – 17th, 2010. 2 training sessions sustained by 4 Norwegian experts for 30 civil servants from the environment departments /

directions from Bucharest City Hall, Bucharest Environment Protection Agency, Bucharest Environment Committee. The aim of the training was to help the participants understand “the global issues related to the environment” and to develop their skills for using them in the local environment planning;

- ❖ The experience exchange regarding the climate network and the future development of the project through the meetings organized by the partners at Innovation Norway and Oslo City Hall, at KS and Askim and Moss City Halls, meetings attended by the project manager and team. The experience and know how exchange was realized including by the participation of the Romanian experts at the National Conference for Climate Planning at regional level in Norway. The discussions focused on common strategies related to the field of sustainable development with impact in decreasing the gas emissions with greenhouse effect in the atmosphere and other pollution factors that have an effect over the air, soil and water quality. The visit was a useful experience and good practices exchange in the field of environment protection and for preparing a Climate Change Network that will comprise city halls from Norway and from Bucharest.

ENCOURAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS MAIN ACTORS OF THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY



- ❖ 12 young people were trained as trainers. Thus, they contributed to the training of 360 young eco-volunteers from 12 high schools in Bucharest in the field of sustainable development, human rights with focus on non-discrimination and social justice, developing a healthy and sustainable life style and writing projects on themes specific to environment protection. At the same time, these young people were the main actors within the events of the campaign, working

together and under the coordination of the young leaders;

- ❖ The eco-volunteers march and the eco-environment guard: 5.500 young people and 60 teachers participated, 12 high schools from Bucharest involved;
- ❖ Clear the Air in Bucharest show: presented and performed by pupils from the participant high schools. The show



- took place in the Summer Garden of the Constantin Tanase Theater;
- ❖ The photo exhibition „Eco-itineraries in Bucharest”, attended by His Excellency Mr. Øystein Hovdkinn, the Norwegian Ambassador to Romania. Over 2.000 photos were submitted to the competition. The final selection included 250 photos that were exhibited for a week at Bucharest Museum;
- ❖ Costumes parade: through 55 costumes realized from recyclable materials, the young people proved not only creativity, but also they sent a message to Bucharest's citizens for raising the awareness in what concerns the importance of recycling materials for a new quality of the urban life;

- ❖ 12 new projects realized by the 12 high schools involved in the project (small projects that address the problems of the communities where the high schools are located, realized in partnerships with the public authorities and the private companies). 5.000 young people beneficiaries of these projects. The projects were published within a Catalogue, issued in 500 copies.

THE CITIZENS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Their opinion was included in the „Citizens view on environment quality in Bucharest” survey, realized by IRSOP – the conclusions were used for the elaboration or update of strategic documents of the partner institutions.

The main conclusions of the survey show that most of the capital’s citizens feel that the environment situation will get worse (38%) or it will remain unchanged (35%); 71% of those interviewed think that the quality of the environment in Bucharest is dramatic; the public places considered to have the lowest environment quality are the street (67%), the markets (56%) and the means of transportation (43%).

A GREAT DIVERSITY OF HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES involved

- NGOs,
- Public administration authorities / central and local public institutions,
- Academic institutions,
- Educational institutions,
- Teachers,
- Private companies,
- The public television, the Romanian Radio Society, other media institutions,
- Personalities from the public life,
- Young volunteers etc.

The project ensured the **necessary framework for the development of a process of revising and updating the strategic documents necessary for an efficient management of environment protection on the capital:**

- ❖ The Environment strategy and the Action Plan for The Quality of Air in Bucharest. A Technical Committee was made up within the Bucharest Environment Protection Agency and it supervises this process.
- ❖ The project ensured the necessary framework for writing a Toolkit for eco-servants that includes laws, tools, methodologies, standards and good practices that support the decision making bodies in the elaboration of public policies in the field of environment protection.

Bucharest City Hall, the main partner in the project, considered that the following benefits were important as a consequence of implementing the project:

- Including in the city hall’s strategic documents the information obtained in the experience exchanges and in the trainings;
- Materials and information disseminated in the responsible public institutions from Bucharest;
- Increasing the public awareness by communicating to the citizens, organizations and the business community the local initiatives related to sustainable development;
- Making up a network with the Norwegian partners that allows the good practices exchange and the participation in partnership to activities related to the environment, focused on the issues of climate change;
- Opening new cooperation opportunities.

Lessons learnt

- ✓ The project put to value the specific expertise;
- ✓ A better use of the resources for the achievement of a common goal: solutions / answers for problems of the local communities;

- ✓ It strengthened the credibility of the local authorities and it contributed to the increase of the citizen's trust in these;
- ✓ The partnership with NGOs ensures the resources mobilization – a very large target group (other structures of the civil society: academic institutions, research institutions, NGOs, mass media, private companies) for participation and dissemination of the information;
- ✓ More flexibility in taking over and putting to value those ideas / initiatives / proposals that resulted from the project;
- ✓ Significant results and major impact with minimum funds!

Co-financed by

The Norwegian Government, through Norwegian Cooperation Program for economic growth and sustainable development in Romania

Partners

- Askim City Hall - Norway
- Bucharest City Hall
- Bucharest District City Halls
- Bucharest School Inspectorate
- Bucharest Environment Protection Agency
- Bucharest Environment Committee
- Ion Neculce High School
- Constantin Brancoveanu High School
- Media Technical College
- Emil Racovita National College
- Mihail Sadoveanu High School
- Nicolae Kretzulescu Commercial Superior School
- Matei Basarab National College
- Decebal High School
- Gheorghe Sincai National College
- Gheorghe Lazar National College
- Dumitru Motoc Food Industry Technical College
- Grigore Moisil High School
- Constantin Tanase Theatre
- Bucharest Museum

Testimonials of the beneficiaries

At the final evaluation conference that took place on December 13th, 2010 at the National Military Center, the participants responded to a couple of questions about the project, such as:

What impact did the project have?

"The project helped to broaden my perspective"

"The students from the high school became aware of the fact that they have to keep nature as they received it"

"International collaboration beneficial for young people from both countries: Norway and Romania. Congratulations"

"The partnership agreements made with the high schools involved in the project"

"The implementation method: students and teachers in the same teams"

What did this project mean for you and the institution you represent?

"The increase of the information and awareness level within the high school"

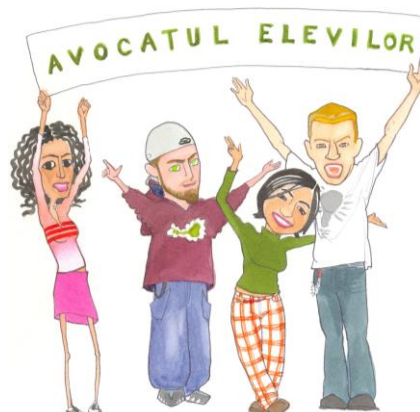
"Transfer of good practices, experience and solutions for the problems related to environment protection"

"Communication, involvement, responsibility, volunteerism, expertise, writing and implementing projects, partnership, team spirit"

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.



In each selected school, 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 2010

The specific objectives for 2010 were:

- To implement a cascade training system for students and teachers;
- To make a good use of the projects' results and resources;
- To disseminate the good practices and to realize a transfer of know-how at national level.

Activities in 2010

Baisoara Summer School

July 26th – 29th, 2010

This activity aimed to assure the experience and good practices exchange regarding the operation of the Students' Ombudsman in schools. The summer school was held during 4 days and it reunited over 50 participants.

The agenda included:



- ❖ The Students' Ombudsman project;
- ❖ The child rights;
- ❖ Alternative procedures for disseminating the child rights: theatre, media, drawing / painting;
- ❖ Communication / conflict resolution;
- ❖ Experience exchange between the participant schools: recruiting ombudsmen, disseminating information, co-working with the school management / form masters, handling the cases that fall outside the school's competence;
- ❖ Study cases and activities on groups.

Results

- ❖ 52 participants from 8 counties and from Bucharest;
- ❖ The summer school was an example of how students and teachers can work together for creating the instruments and the necessary methodology for assuring the project's capacity of financial self-support;
- ❖ The experience exchange gave the participants the possibility to find new and different methods for promoting the project;
- ❖ The Students' Ombudsman network was updated;
- ❖ A kit was realized and it includes the good practices that were presented, the methodology for handling the cases, initiatives meant to promote the human / child rights in schools, problems and how these were overcome.

Co-financed by

The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports

Partners

The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports
UNICEF Office in Romania

Testimonials of the beneficiaries

"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 "freshman" in this project"

"It was a new and unique experience, the beginning of the road for me as students' ombudsman"

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

4. ABCD ... MULTIPLIERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Description

The project aimed at improving the quality of the local projects and practices of human rights education with children and young people, by using and improving the multipliers' skills.

Period

October 2009 – August 2010

Objectives

- To make the participants familiar with the key concepts, the methods, the challenges of human rights education and the main priorities of the youth policies at European and local level;
- To introduce certain tools for educators, especially the Compasito and Compass manuals, as starting points for developing non-formal activities and for initiating projects with children and young people at local and / or international level;
- To encourage the elaboration and development of multiplying projects on human rights education with children;
- To inform the participants about the potential of European Youth Programs developed on citizenship, participation and human rights and exploiting the potential of the future European projects.



Activities

The project aimed at creating a model of implementation for the human rights education activities with children and young people, having youth as promoters. The multipliers initiated and developed multiplication activities starting immediately after the training of trainers, in a tutoring period, when they benefited from the support of two experts in project management and human rights education. The project used the non-formal education methods and a participative approach. Among the key methodological aspects, we mention: team work, active participation, theoretical, as well as practical approach, simulation exercises or study cases regarding the environment where the participants are doing their daily work.

Results

- ✓ 20 multipliers trained on how to use certain tools for human rights educators: the Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters manuals;
- ✓ 5 working groups active in projects elaboration on human rights education themes;
- ✓ 5 project proposals elaborated by the working groups within financing programs of the European Youth Foundation, European Commission etc.

Co-financed by

European Council, through European Youth Foundation, D-HRE budget line

Partner

Bucharest School Inspectorate

Testimonials of the beneficiaries

"The participation in this project helped me improve my knowledge on human rights and on how these are applied in society. I learnt how our rights can be protected, by various ways. I experienced non-formal education techniques that I will use in my work as a volunteer."
(Georgiana Leahu, participant)

“The project contributed to my training as an educator on human rights, as well as to improving my skills on project management. I learnt how to write projects for helping young people and children.” (Maria-Alexandra Popescu, participant)

“The project gave me the opportunity to get trained in human rights education, to learn about the European Council’s human rights education manuals, such as Compass, Compasito and Gender Matters, and it gave me the opportunity to realize activities to support personal development.” (Cristina Stefan, participant)

5. INNOVATION FOR PARTICIPATION

Innovative methods to increase youth participation in Europe

Description

The project was an initiative from the Youth and Sports Department of the County Council of Seville, which aimed to support the democratic participation of young people in Europe.

Period

February – September 2010

Objectives

- ❖ To promote young people’s active citizenship through their participation in the democratic life at local, regional, national and/or international level; and their European citizenship by learning about the functioning of the main E.U institutions;
- ❖ To facilitate a structural dialogue between the young people and the decision-makers on the youth policies at different levels;
- ❖ To promote mutual understanding among participants coming from different countries and regions, by sharing their experiences on Participative Democracy and cooperating on the design of innovative methods;
- ❖ To support the use of Non Formal Education for young people, as a complement of the Formal one, to contribute to Lifelong Learning in Europe, developing its quality, acknowledging its results and improving its inclusion in Formal Education;
- ❖ To promote solidarity and tolerance among young people coming from different countries, beginning with the cohesion among regions belonging to the same country, and among countries belonging to the same region, in order to achieve the cohesion throughout the E.U;
- ❖ To promote team-work and to develop social abilities in order to make easier the communication among young people of similar ages, but coming from different countries;
- ❖ To empower the contact making and cooperation among young people, youth councils and Public Administrations from the different Western and Eastern European countries, promoting as well the cooperation between these two different regions, to improve the networking;
- ❖ To contribute, through sharing good practices, to improving the quality of the support measures addressed to young people and to implement more and better projects and programs on Participative Democracy in the nearest future.

Activities

- To identify and select the good practices
- To launch the web platform
- To organize the seminar *Innovation for participation*
- To disseminate and explore the results



The project's main activity was the organization and implementation of a four days seminar in Seville, which was attended by young people and promoters from the best identified youth democratic participation projects in Europe. Also, experts and those responsible of the decision making in the youth and participation field were involved.

This seminar intended to facilitate an open space to

promote the debate and the exchange of ideas, experiences and methods, in order to identify the best practices at European level in promoting youth participation in the democratic life. Afterwards, these practices were widely disseminated through the web platform, thus contributing to its transferability and replication in other European regions and countries.

At the end of the seminar, young participants, experts and those responsible for the decision-making participated in a simulation of a plenary session of the European Parliament. The objective of this simulation was to allow young participants to propose and debate about future actions that could be implemented in order to promote youth participation in the democratic life across Europe. Those recommendations approved by the young participants during this session were directly transmitted to the European Commission, as an input for the evaluation of the Structured Dialogue that this institution, jointly with Member States and the European Youth Forum plan to carry out during the next year.

Romania had 5 participants in this seminar, through APSD – Agenda 21.

Results

- ❖ The main result of the project was the list of recommendations to improve Youth Participation in Europe commonly agreed by the Young participants during the simulation of a European Parliament plenary session. Some of these are:
 - Open days / hours of mayors and politicians
 - Newspapers for young people
 - Meetings in schools on current topics
 - Creating a blog with information for youth
 - Small pieces of paper with information distributed with coffee etc.
 - Use of social networks for gathering opinions and disseminating information
 - Youth ombudsman
 - Seminars
- ❖ The web platform www.innovationforparticipation.com

Co-financed by

The European Union through Youth in Action Program

Partners

County Council of Seville, Spain
 Town Hall of Cazalla de la Sierra, Spain
 Vidin Municipality, Bulgaria
 Open Youth, Bulgaria

Jammerbugt Ungdomsskole, Denmark
Pandrup Ungdomsklub, Denmark
Provincia di Alessandria, Italy
Associazione sportive, dilettantistica e cultural GULLIVER, Italy
Youth Council Romania
Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21, Romania

Testimonials of the beneficiaries

“It was the first international project I participated in, and it helped to gain the experience that afterwards was useful to me in all the activities and projects I participated in, I learnt new working methods and I took my own initiatives back home based on the information obtained in Spain. This project was more than welcome as it was a real launching platform for the active involvement and non-formal education for me.”

Gabriel Grigorescu, participant

6. 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 2010, the event took place in Primorsko, Bulgaria.

Period

June 21st – 26th, 2010

Activities

Young people from Estonia, Romania and Bulgaria participated in this event. The Romanian delegation included 4 young people and 1 leader. The themes approached were child rights and the effects of globalization at international level in relation with human rights. Workshops on teams were organized and non-formal working methods were used. Information was obtained through the Internet and the materials provided by the organizers, which helped the participants to debate the chosen subject. The unlimited consume at international level was another debated subject: the current consume situation from different countries was analyzed, as well as the effects on humans of the exaggerated consume in general. Also, the factors influencing the exaggerated consume were discussed.



Within the seminar, the participants benefited of a session sustained by 2 American lecturers. The theme of this session was the approach of democracy at international level. Various approaches of democracy were analyzed by working on teams (individualism, statism, republicanism and socialism). Examples from different countries were discussed.

Results

The conclusions of the debates were:

- ❖ The Earth's natural resources are limited which forces us to find alternative solutions;
- ❖ The participants became aware of the factors that influence the risk of running out of the natural resources at international level;
- ❖ Possible alternative resources were debated and the participants concluded that it is necessary to promote this at international level;

- ❖ Global warming infringes the right to live by the effects it has on the environment;
- ❖ The effects of the global warming were analyzed: climate change, nature effects, influencing the eco-systems;
- ❖ The direct effects of global warming on the population – this creates a hostile environment for the surviving of the mankind.

Testimonials of the beneficiaries

“This experience helped me be more aware of the child rights and the problems the world faces due to globalization. As a participant in this seminar I had the opportunity to debate current problems within an international team formed by young people in the same age range with me and I understood how important is that each of us gets involved in problems that might seem general sometimes. I wished the used methods would’ve been more interactive and would’ve allowed us to find solutions that are at hand for us youngsters.”

Georgiana Leahu – 17 years old, participant

7. 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.

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.



Realizarea Obiectivelor de Dezvoltare ale Mileniului

IMPLICAREA ELEVILOR ȘI A CADRELOR DIDACTICE DIN LICEE
ÎN PROGRAME ȘI PROIECTE DE EDUCAȚIE PENTRU DEZVOLTARE

Proiect finanțat de Uniunea Europeană

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 will be developed on **two components**:

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

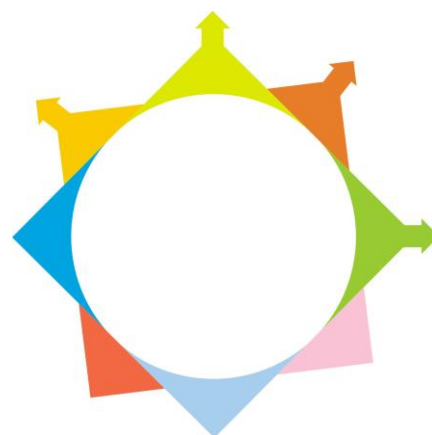
- ❖ National level training for managers and representatives of partners and the civil society
- ❖ The elaboration and publication of the national and international “Development education” curriculum
- ❖ The elaboration of support materials
- ❖ “Football – a game without AIDS” documentary
- ❖ The Development 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.



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

Carrefoure 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 High School, Bucharest

Elena Cuza National College, Bucharest

Ioan Petrus High School, Otopeni, Ilfov County

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.

In the project "Corruption concerns us all!", the volunteers teams played an important part, as they interviewed the citizens for the realization of the perception study on corruption, they contributed to the foundation of the Local Action Groups and to the organization of the debates on corruption. Also, the volunteers were an important part of the "Strengthening the environmental governance in Bucharest" project, as they were the contact persons between the organization and the participant schools, co-organizers of the events in the project, participants in the elaboration and implementation of the environment campaign Clear the Air in Bucharest.

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.

Here are some of their statements:

"It was a captivating training, full of information and very useful." (volunteer, Strengthening the environmental governance in Bucharest project)

"As far as I am concerned the attitude towards the public institutions and the civil servants of most of the citizens' is one of prejudice, meaning they think that both the institutions and the civil servants are corrupt, although when I asked them if they know any corruption case they said no." (volunteer Bucharest, the project Corruption concerns us all)

"These (NB the citizens) weren't interested to participate in the survey because they thought corruption always existed, exists and will exist, and they are nothing but a pawn in this chain. [...] I met also citizens that were very disappointed with the negative consequences of the corruption phenomenon, they considered that there is no alternative left to fight against this phenomenon [...] and they thought that there's no point anymore in being concerned about it and its consequences as they don't see themselves as potentially positive catalysts in decreasing the corruption phenomenon." (volunteer Cluj county, the project Corruption concerns us all)

"The persons I interviewed didn't know their rights, but I was surprised that they considered giving and taking bribe as an unwritten rule! It is impossible to explain why we don't have to break the law but it is normal to do so. [...] Surprisingly, the young people I interviewed said that they are preoccupied with this subject, while more mature 'in the system' persons were bored of new techniques of fighting against corruption." (volunteer Dolj county, the project Corruption concerns us all)

"Generally, the citizen is bored of this corruption situation in Romania and at the same time it has a feeling of hate, revenge towards the civil servant (even towards those who aren't corrupt)." (volunteer Neamt county, the project Corruption concerns us all)

Grants

In 2010, APSD – Agenda 21 obtained grants from:

- ✓ European Union, through the Transition Facility 2007 – Strengthening the civil society support in the fight against corruption program
- ✓ European Union through Youth in Action program
- ✓ European Council, through the European Youth Foundation, D-HRE budget line
- ✓ European Commission through the program Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development. Public Awareness and education for development in Europe
- ✓ Norway Government, through Norway Cooperation Program for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Romania
- ✓ The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports

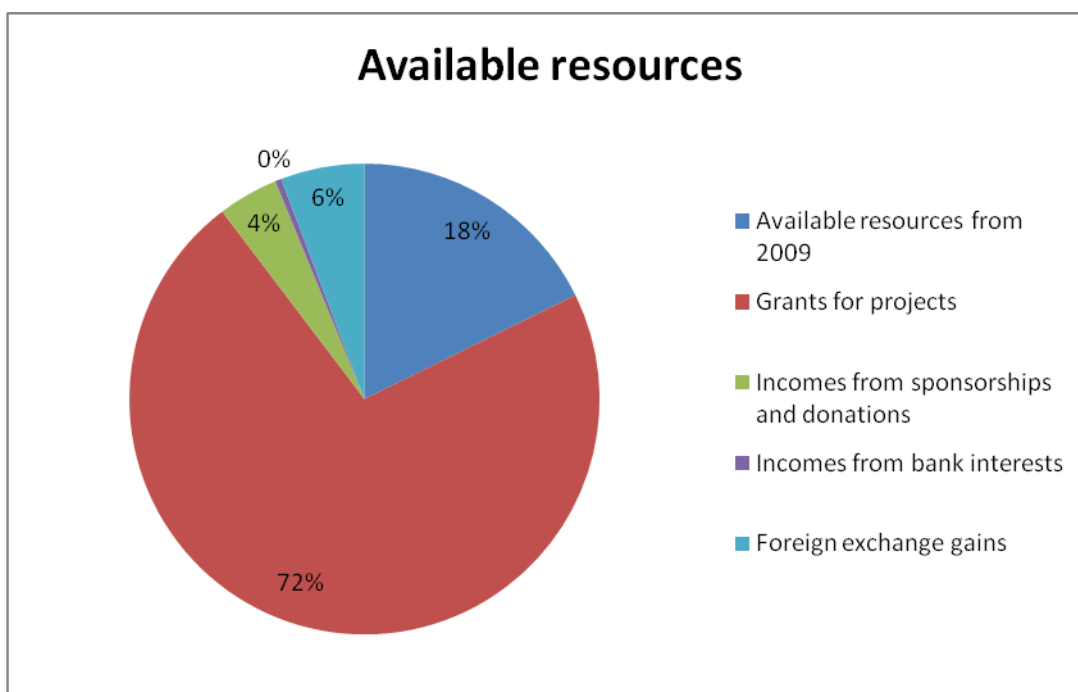
Financial report 2010

Available resources	RON	EURO
Available resources from 2009	125023.68	29.178,42
Grants for projects (Phare, Council of Europe, Innovation Norway, etc)	507391.15	118.416,53

Income from sponsors	29217.98	6.818,98
Income from bank interests	3050.92	712,03
Foreign exchange gains	40670.05	9.491,70
TOTAL	705353.78	164.617,67

Resources used	RON	EURO
Resources available at the end of 2010	57155.44	13.339,12
Projects' expenditures	621091.17	144.952,20
Bank commissions	3183.76	743,04
Foreign exchange expenditures	42651.38	9.954,11
Amortizations	3877.20	904,87
TOTAL	727958.95	169.893,33

Cash available	RON	EURO
Balance at 31.12.2010 RON	51362.14	11987.06
Balance at 31.12.2010 EURO	5793.31	1352.06
TOTAL	57155.45	13339.12



Resources used

- Resources available at the end of 2010
- Bank commissions
- Amortizations
- Projects' expenditures
- Foreign exchange expenditures

