

CIVITAS

2007

RAPORT ANUAL
ANNUAL REPORT
ÉVES JELENTÉS

CIVITAS



ANNUAL

REPORT



Preface

The year 2007, the first year after Romania joined the European Union meant for the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society a year of consolidation and planning.

As the present paper shows, this year we managed to consolidate the activities on the activity domains, we extended the portfolio of projects on the organization's priority axes and extended the partnerships we had in different activities. We continued to support community initiatives coming from the public administration and from community organizations. Through our projects we tried to support the planning processes which are developing on local level for accessing programs with international financing and at the same time we focused on the activities related to the information - citizen counseling as well as community groups counseling and training activities addressed to different categories of target groups.

In 2007 our organization has been „reinforced” by attracting new colleagues who took over important tasks in the organization but we also tried to start a new programming cycle for our organization. We hope that also in the future Civitas Foundation for Civil Society will represent for the local communities a reliable partner and professional consultant in coordinating the development and civil society consolidation processes.

We thank all those who in the year 2007 supported one way or another the activity of our organization and they have our deep appreciation.

Orbán Árpád
Regional director

Balogh Márton
Regional director

Mission

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society stimulates the local and regional development.

By development we mean the process by which the members of a community enhance their personal and institutional capacities to mobilize and manage resources to obtain sustainable improvements of their quality of life consistent with their own aspirations.

Motivation

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society was founded in 1992. The main reasons for its foundation were the need to enhance the local administration capacity and to stimulate the citizen involvement in decision-making and local governance.

Structure

The organization has two regional offices, situated in the North-West developing region and the Centre developing region of Romania, namely in Cluj-Napoca and Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipalities.

Activities

The Foundation performs its activity mainly in Transylvania, but it also performs activities at a national level as well as in South-Eastern European countries.



Programmes and projects

The programs and projects performed in our organization may be divided into three major fields of activity according to the strategic principles identified in the organization's documents for strategic planning:

- I. Rural development
- II. Human resources development
- III. Civil society development

I. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Local Development Agent

The Local Development Agent is a person employed within the local public administration, within micro-regional associations (intercommunality) or a person who activates within a local NGO. His/her basic task, based on his/her abilities, knowledge and information, is the active support of the local development by facilitating the process for the preparation of the local development strategy, project preparation and implementation, identification and achievement of partnerships, increase of the village visibility (update of the village web site).

In its two Ressources Centres – Cluj Napoca and Odorheiu Secuiesc – Civitas Foundation continued to promote the same pattern in 2007. We offered continuous professional support for LDA by providing online information and consultancy, within discussion groups, by organizing trimestrial meetings at the level of ressources centres and through the webpage of the program – www.lda.ro.



The trimestrial meetings were organized around the themes suggested by the members of the network and we had guests from Rural and Fishery Development Payment Agency, the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform, the Ministry of Agriculture, the County Council.

The Local Development Agents managed to set up Intercommunity Development Associations within which most of them became Managing Directors.

Thus, there are four associations set up and coordinated by Local Development Agents in the Cluj county only. The Local Development Agents were the initiators of some commune-level NGOs with the purpose of

developing community development projects such as environmental education, setting up and putting into service community centers, cultural and information events.

Civitas Foundation organized throughout the year debates on the most current issues, offered updated information about the european and national funds and supported the projects initiated and implemented by the agents. We managed to organize in 9 microregions the Information Caravan on Leader+ program and the Local Development Agents supported the organization of this project.



Although the financing of the project ended in August 2006, the LDA network continues to exist and to grow, without receiving financial support from the central or county institutions. Moreover, knowing that both European Union and government funds can be accessed only on the grounds of projects fundamented through valid local development strategies, a growing number of local councils and municipalities manifested their interest and asked our support for choosing, training and assisting a LDA.

Partners:

Centre for Rural Assistance Timișoara (CAR)

Public Policy Centre Cluj-Napoca

The Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, Babeș Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Financier:

The project was supported from the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society's own resources.

Period of implementation:

January – December 2007

Program coordinators:

Rozália CSÁKI,

Zsuzsánna INCZE,

Alexandru PAVEL

Partnership for Rural Development of Unitarian Villages – Financing Program of the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society

Civitas Foundation (Odorheiu Secuiesc) in partnership with Project Harvest Hope (SUA) initiated a program for supporting community projects. By the intermediary of this project we intend to continue the “Local Development Agent” project, to help promote and facilitate the local development of the unitarian communities involved. In the competition took part unitarian communities as well as local associations, that had already begun local development activities within the framework of a program that started in 2005.

Following the program announced in October 2007, five community projects were realized:

1. The Compressorate „HKARACSONYFALVA”
Purpose of the project: renovate the kitchen at the Community House.
2. The Unitarian Community in Petreni
Purpose of the project: to ensure a more effective medical assistance for the sick and for the old by transforming the old school into a medical consulting room.
3. The Unitarian Community in Chinușu
Purpose of the project: Building a football ground for the community.
4. The Unitarian Community in Ocland
Purpose of the project: Developing the Village Museum in Ocland.
5. The Unitarian Community in Firtușu
Purpose of the project: Introducing the service “Community Administrator” in the villages Inlaceni, Firtușu și Păuleni.



Partner:

Harvest Hope Pro Homorod

Financier:

Project Harvest Hope (SUA)

Period of implementation:

October 2007 – March 2008

Program coordinator:

Rozália CSÁKI

Environmental Management for Disaster Areas in the Odorhei Region

The floods in the summer of 2005 affected both the environment and the communities in the region of Odorhei. Although, after the disaster, they started to reconstruct the villages, there appeared the need to create the premises of a viable future for these communities. Thus, the main objectives of the project were to include the environment management issues in the local development strategies, as well as to increase the level of involvement and collaboration of the communities in the target area in the decision making process concerning environmental issues.

We collaborated with the following communes from the target area: Lupeni, Șimonești, Corund, Porumbeni Mari, Dealu, Feliceni și Mugeni, all of them affected by floods. In each community, representatives of the local public authorities and institutions, of the church, citizens and enterprisers organized Local Initiative Groups.

In a series of thematic seminars, we presented to the members of the communities information on environmental law (Romanian and European), ways to prevent pollution, environmental management systems, success projects in this field, as well as information on community and local development, the methodology of a strategic plan, etc. Our purpose was to obtain the involvement of as many community members as possible in these projects, thus training persons able to facilitate the development initiatives in their own communities.

In each commune we developed actions of planting “small woods”, where an important number of young persons took part.

We published three bilingual booklets on *Applying the Sustainable Development Concept at Local Level*, *Public Participation in the Sustainable Development at Local Level*, *Environmental Management Systems*, in order to improve the



degree of knowledge and in order to ensure an increasing degree of information of the communities on environmental protection and related issues.

During an experience exchange of 5 days, organized in the Northern part of Hungary, the active members of the local initiative groups had the possibility of learning about sustainable development projects successfully implemented as well as other successful projects in the field. (These examples inspired the participants for their sustainable development plans for their region).

For the purpose of accomplishing sustainable development strategy, we organized workshops, we used questionnaires, there were personal discussions and there was a continuous collaboration with initiative groups. We must mention that we had a fruitful collaboration both at the level of the communities partnership in elaborating the strategic plans and with the Environmental Protection Agency of the Harghita county.

At the end of September 2007 we managed to complete the sustainable local development plans in the following communes: Șimonești, Porumbeni Mari, Ulcani and Morăreni. The development plans were presented in plenary sessions for the communities mentioned, in order to motivate the community members to take part actively in their accomplishment.

Although the project ended, we are still in touch with the mentioned communities and we offer information and consultancy in support of local development.

Partner:

Working Group for Sustainable Development AGORA

Financier:

European Union through the Program PHARE 2004 – Civil Society

Perioada de implementare:

October 2006 – September 2007

Program coordinator:

Rozália CSÁKI

Get Involved in Your Future!

The objective of the project was to set up and support **Information and training in information technology community centres (e-centre)** in the communities with poorly exploited potential. Thus we intended to create and develop operative capacities necessary for the administration, promotion and good use of local resources, by obtaining the involvement of all local actors and by establishing concrete means of communication and collaboration among them.



The project is still a pilot project implemented by Civitas Foundation for Civil Society in two rural communities in Cluj county and one rural community in Alba county. This concerns the project “Integrated Local Development”, pilot project in Săvădisla and Mihai Viteazul” and “Local Development in Rimetea”. Within the framework of these projects we used two instruments: Information and Training in Information Tehnology Community Centre (e-centre) and Local Development Agent in order to support local development and to facilitate the access of the population to better paid jobs. The seven communities, Săvădisla, Mihai Viteazul, Iara, Sânpaul (Cluj county), Rimetea (Alba county), Tăuteu and Chișlaz (Bihar county) benefited of : the software (licenced) necessary for computer use; course package – computer use, English and project management – and other courses agreed upon by the members of the community, for instance rural tourism; support for the organization of debates on several subjects, such as European funds, community development, environment, public-private partnership, etc; contribution for financing community specific activities (for instance organizing the commune’s days event); contribution for renovating and arranging the community centre; consumables for the community centre – paper, toner,

CDs; assistance in forming the local initiative group and its involvement in solving local problems; elaboration of the local development strategy and creation/ updating the web page of the commune; assistance in setting up a local NGO; support in choosing and training the Local Development Agent and help him/her in carrying out the activities specific for the function.



Benefits for the communities:

- easy access to information;
- stimulating the local development by implementing a pattern that proved to be viable –the Local Development Agent- and the possibility of creating the framework for sustainable development;
- services such as photocopy, fax, web-design and Internet access;
- courses for computer use, English, project management, rural tourism, etc;
- development of necessary skills for integration on the labour market (computer use, English) for young persons;
- increasing of the commune's visibility;
- the possibility of a more active involvement of the formal and informal leaders in the local decision-making process; the possibility of continuing the collaboration with famous partners such as Microsoft, Bechtel and Civitas Foundation

Partners:

Transylvania Highway Company,
Local Councils of the beneficiary communes

Financier:

Microsoft Romania

Period of implementation:

January - December 2007

Program coordinator:

Alexandru PAVEL

RuralNet



RuralNet

RuralNet is a network of 22 non-governmental organizations working in the field of community development. It appeared as an answer to the need manifested by the organizations that actively intervene in the development of the rural environment. At present, it is one of the most dynamic networks that work in the Romanian non-governmental environment.

Though it is not institutionalized, the network benefited of financial support from German Marshall Fund, within RuralNet Development projects, whose implementation ended in February 2006. The responsibilities of Civitas Foundation for this project, as an active member of the network, were to set up the development strategy of the network and to publish a Guide for Community Development.

In May 2006, on behalf of the network, a new project was submitted. The purpose of this project was to increase the involvement of the network in setting up and monitoring the policies concerning community and rural development in Romania.

Thus, RuralNet is intended to become a point of reference in the field and to become a partner of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development for setting up policies that concern the rural development. German Marshall Fund accepted the financing of this new project, in which Civitas Foundation has the role of monitoring the implementation of the National Development Plan, increasing the network visibility, by preparing a plan/policy, attracting new members and keeping/developing partnerships with NGOs and networks, universities, local and central authorities, etc.

Furthermore, in 2007 Civitas Foundation for Civil Society became a member of the Managing Council of the Network.

Partners:

22 NGOs in the RuralNET network

Financier:

German Marshall Fund

Period of implementation:

August 2005 - July 2007

Program coordinators:

Zsuzsanna INCZE,
Márton BALOGH

The Program Leader+ in Europe and Hungary – Professional Criteria and Practical Experiences

The event entitled The Leader+ Program in Europe and Hungary – Professional criteria and Practical experiences covered two development regions from Romania: Centre and North-West. Between the 2nd and the 8th of December we organized 9 meetings in Turulung, Iclod, Săvădisla, Căianu, Remetea, Șumuleu Ciuc, Miercurea Nirajului, Praid, Ilieni, in 5 counties (Satu-Mare, Cluj, Mures, Harghita, Covasna)

The purpose of this information caravan was to present the LEADER program, the stages that will have to be followed in Romania and the opportunities offered by this program in the field of rural communities development, by giving examples from Hungary.



At these meetings participated representatives of the local administration, NGOs from the region, enterprisers who carry out their activities in the region as well as other persons interested in the subject. A total number of about 200 participants had the possibility to learn about this program and to become possible beneficiaries of the opportunities the Leader program offers.

In this caravan we included the regional and county institutions that are related to rural development. Through the presentations done by Agriculture and Rural Development Direction and Rural and Fishery Development Payment Agency representatives, the participants had the opportunity to become familiar with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development strategy concerning the implementation of the Leader axis in Romania and with other opportunities designed for rural development.

The good practice examples coming from Hungary held the attention of the participants and we enjoyed constructive conversations.



In our country the Leader program will be launched in 2009 and we must be prepared for it in order to benefit from the program. The partnership and the cooperation is one of the main principles of the program.

We have to enhance the existent local level partnerships and to create new ones, so that at the moment of the launch of the program, the microregions might successfully apply.

In this process, Civitas Foundation wishes to offer support in the future too. We want to help setting up action groups, to ensure their education and training and to support them in setting up viable local strategies, and not the least, to build cooperation, national and international partnerships.

Partners:

Leader Centre (Leaderközpont) Hungary,
Agriculture and Rural Development Direction Cluj, Agriculture and Rural Development Direction Satu-Mare, Agriculture and Rural Development Direction Mures, Agriculture and Rural Development Direction Maramures, Agriculture and Rural Development Direction Harghita, Rural and Fishery Development Payment Agency Cluj, Public Policy Centre Cluj-Napoca (CENPO)

Financier:

The project was financed from the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society own resources.

Period of implementation:

November - December 2007

Program coordinators:

Rozália CSÁKI,
Zsuzsánna INCZE

Closing the mines - Social, economic and environment regeneration

The project supports the implementation of the Strategy for the Mining Industry of the Romanian Government for 2004-2010. The development objective of this project is to enhance the Government's capacity to overtake the reform in the mining sector by enhancing the capacity of the MEC to close all the non-profitable mining companies and the ancillary companies in a sustainable way from an environmental point of view. Furthermore, the project wishes to support the National Agency for Developing and Implementing Mining Areas Reconstruction Programs, local communities and other agencies that are engaged in the social and economic reconstruction of mining areas.

Within the framework of this project, **Civitas Foundation for Civil Society** was involved as consultant in many activities:

- facilitation of the setting up of strategic plans for different mining communities in the North-West Region;
- facilitation and technical assistance for the community leaders in setting up project proposals and presenting them to the National Agency for Developing and Implementing Mining Areas Reconstruction Programs;
- organizing and carrying out courses on different themes designed for representatives from local public administration, NGOs and community organizations based on community development in Alba, Bistrița - Năsăud, Dâmbovița, Prahova, Suceava, Cluj and Sălaj counties.

Partners:

WOLVERHAMPTON University - International Development Centre
Centre for Rural Assistance (CAR)
EOS Foundation

Financier:

World Bank

Period of implementation:

March 2006 - March 2009

Program coordinator:

Márton BALOGH

II. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Improving the Program Management, Elaboration of Occupational Standard: Program director

The purpose of the initiative was to identify and promote competence landmarks for the position of program director. These landmarks are necessary both for increasing the quality of the offer of professional training in the field as well as the harmonisation of human resources policies through a unitary legal framework.

On the labour market, the professions that require management of implementing different programs belong to the nongovernmental field as well as to the public and profit field, most of the actors considering that it is necessary to employ a program manager, coordinator or director. Although it was introduced in the Romanian Occupational Code, the employment of a program director was not preceded by a prior quality, unitary and standardized training, given the fact that the competences necessary for the position were not clearly delimited and developed. The project of the Civitas Foundation addresses directly the requirement of national regulation and standardization of professions.

The main result of this project was to elaborate the occupational standard "program director" and introduce it in the Romanian Occupational Code. Twelve competence units necessary for the position of program director were included in the standard. These competence units represent the legal framework of the qualification as program director. Employers shall take these units into consideration when establishing the list of competences and job description of the employees that occupy this position. The result



is extremely relevant for the professional training bodies, as they give the basis for designing the offer and the education programs in the field of program management.

Before the setting up of the occupational standard, the tasks and qualifications required by this position were not clearly delimited and thus the professional training programs did not have a unitary framework, able to cover the needs for the position of program director. These problems were identified both in the North-West region and at national level.

This project also envisaged the extension of the Civitas program for adult continuous education. The series of projects in this field conducted by the Civitas Foundation targeted human resources development and adult education by carrying out regular training and upgrading courses in the field of management for local public administration employees (civil servants, nominated or elected, local development agents) or education (school managers).

Partner:

The Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, Babeş Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Financier:

European Union – through the Program Phare 2004 – Human Resources Development

Period of implementation:

January 2007 - January 2008

Program coordinator:

Enikő Andrea PÁSZTOR

“More Confident for Your Future”- Project Writing Counseling

In its 15 years of activity (courses, consultancy, rural development programs) Civitas Foundation often had to deal with the problem of lack of knowledge and information about EU financing systems. The purpose of this project was to compile a DVD in Hungarian. This DVD may represent an effective tool, a training material for local authorities, nongovernmental organizations or enterprisers, in their attempt to access European funds. The content, structure and language used for the DVD were carefully choose so that a large number of people may fruitfully use it. The presentation of successful , concrete projects is a very



important part of the DVD.

The DVD contains themes such as: European Union programs, drafting financing applications, project management, monitoring, presentation of examples of succesul projects, etc.

The DVD was edited in September 2007 in 2000 copies (1000 copies for local public authorities, 500 copies for nongovernmental organizations and 500 for enterprisers) and was distributed with the support of county councils, the local development agents network, ERMACISZA Foundation, development centres for enterprisers as well as the support of other partners of the foundation.

Financier:

Apáczai Foundation, Budapest

Period of implementation

October 2006 - October 2007

Program coordinator:

Árpád ORBÁN

How to use ESF funds for Local Development -Hungarian experiences

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society in collaboration with the Association for Lifetime Learning organized on the 26th of June 2007 a seminar for change of experience entitled: “How to use ESF for local development – Hungarian Experiences”.

This seminar envisaged presenting Hungarian experiences related to writing



and implementing projects financed by the European Social Funds for NGOs from Transylvania but also the possibility of creating partnerships. With the help of trainers, the participants made a clear and exact image of the activities concerning the financing applications as well as the activities concerning the implementation of projects. The success of the seminar was also ensured by the participants willing to gather new ideas and to set up new partnerships.



It was said that some NGOs do not have a relevant strategy for accomplishing the purposes. First of all NGOs must identify both the main objectives and the resources necessary for attaining them. By the intermediary of NGO partnerships we can ensure not only an effective partition of the resources but also the maximization of the positive effects related to the implementation of the projects through synergy.

In the last part of the seminar, the participants had the opportunity to share their opinions and ideas of projects and to establish possible partnerships. The seminar was an unquestionable success, guaranteed by the presence of the trainers and of the participants willing to discuss the topics proposed. At the seminar took part representatives from more than 18 NGOs from Transylvania region.

Partner:

Association for Lifetime Learning, Hungary

Financier:

National Civic Fund – Hungary

Period of implementation:

May - June 2007

Program coordinator:

Enikő Andrea PÁSZTOR

III. CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Citizen Advice Bureau in Odorheiu Secuiesc in the service of the citizen



Since its opening, in September 2002, the Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc is permanently at the disposal of the citizens in the Odorhei area.

Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc provides continually information and counseling services for citizens in order to support them in solving their problems and in exercising their rights and obligations. The information and counseling offered is confidential, free of charge, objective, independent and accessible for all the citizens. The main fields where they provide service are: health, social assistance, social security, work relations, consumer protection, civil rights and civil duties, property, taxes, education, notary procedures, child protection and public services. Given the fact that the citizens' problems are not limited to these field, other fields were introduced, such as: equality of chances between women and men, European information, services offered by companies, business world, NGOs, etc. The information necessary for the counseling offered by the Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc is provided by a national informational system, periodically updated with the changes that intervene in the legal provisions related to the relevant fields as well as local information. The Citizen Advice Bureau collaborates with local, regional and national institutions, mass-media and nongovernmental sector. These relations are necessary in order to objectively fulfill the citizens' needs, to ensure the quality and actuality of information and to offer the authorities usefull information for improving their services. The information and counseling services provided by the Citizen Advice Bureau were asked for from its opening until the end of the 2007 by 12.000 people. In fact there were 7.560 different cases, but usually 2 or 3 persons come for the same problem. In 2007, there were 1938 cases, which means about 3.100 counseled citizens. The Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc continued to publish in 2007 too articles in the column "usefull information" in the newspaper „Udvarhelyi Híradó”, a regional newspaper with a circulation of regional newspaper with a circulation of 10.000 copies daily. Since 2006, the Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc published articles each week, on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Besides the fact that the articles represent a very efficient method of information and advertising, the newspaper also offered a separate space for advertising, that the Bureau and its partners use for other projects too.



The Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc has an important role not only because of the information and counseling services provided for the citizens, but also because of the work performed on other social projects in the region, collaborating with other organizations, institutions and using the experience gained during the activities. Thus, we participated to the progress of several projects / activities within local social partnership, especially to those referring to the problems of children and young persons who still were in or had left the protection system.

The Citizen Advice Bureau Odorheiu Secuiesc was settled up by Civitas Foundation in partnership with the Town Hall of Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality, within PHARE for Civil Society Development Program, financed by the European Union.

Civitas Foundation ensured the functioning of the Bureau in 2007, in collaboration with the Municipality of Odorheiu Secuiesc. At the end of 2005, Civitas Foundation – through the services provided by the Citizen Advice Bureau in Odorheiu Secuiesc – received credentials as provider of social services. Because of this, in 2007, we succeeded in concluding a contract with the Town Hall of Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality for social services provisions.

Starting with the 1st of December 2007 we initiated the implementation of a 10-month Phare project entitled “Consolidation and diversity of services provided by the Citizen Advice Bureau in Odorheiu Secuiesc”.

The Bureau, through CIVITAS Foundation, is a member of the National Association of Citizen Advice Bureaus, which represents the interests of 49 nongovernmental organizations which have settled Citizen Advice Bureaus and mobile lucrative facilities in over 60 urban and rural localities in the country.



Financiers:

Civitas Foundation from its own resources,
Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality,
European Union, through the Phare 2005 program (since 1st of Dec. 2007)

Period of implementation:

Since 2002

Program coordinator:

István MIHÁLY

Global Libraries Romania

“Global Libraries Romania” is a pilot program developed in five counties (Iași, Ilfov, Hunedoara, Sălaj and Tulcea) in 2007. Within this project there was involvement of both libraries and NGOs from these counties.

The project envisaged to change the local libraries into modern centres where the members of the communities could have modern access to information through Internet and PCs, under monitoring of librarians. The starting premise was that given the fact that this is the century of Internet and information, it is important for the members of the communities to be able to efficiently use this rapid method of information and communication.



Libraries are considered to be the most appropriate places for the development of information activities, as the librarian’s role is to help the users in finding the information they need in order to develop their knowledge and to learn useful information.

Within this project Civitas Foundation collaborated with the County Library in Sălaj.

Within this project, Civitas Foundation carried out the following activities for Sălaj county:

- Carrying out, together with the County Library in Sălaj an initial assessment for choosing 5 local communities for analysis;
- Establishing meetings with community representatives, local authorities, informal leaders, minority groups, in order to present the project and its importance for community development;

- Assisting the county library in establishing the centers: 3 final pilot centers out of the five initially choose;
- Technical assistance and support for the county library and local pilot centers in developing the proposals for obtaining PCs for the selected libraries.

As a consequence of the activities from Sălaj county, we selected three pilot centres: Reading Room for the Adult population and the Pensioners Club in Zalău, the City Library in Cehu Silvaniei and the Commune Library in Bobota.

Following completion of the financing requests, the selected libraries were equipped with PCs, printers, webcams and were connected to the Internet. Thanks to the advantages of these fast and modern communication methods, the population will have the possibility of learning all the useful information.

Partner:

The County Library in Sălaj

Financier:

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

Period of implementation:

November - December 2007

Program coordinator:

Alexandru PAVEL

Partnership Program for Under-privileged Youth. Partnership Program "SANSZ"

We continue to develop the social partnership started by Civitas in 1997 with the project "Budvar Social Centre", when we managed especially problems related to Roma population.

The partnership was settled among several local actors, who work in the social field. The purpose of this partnership was the set up and efficient implementation of a social development strategy in Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality and in the neighborhood, founded on identified realities in this municipality.

The project "Local partnership for the efficiency increase in social work - Social Map of Odorheiu Secuiesc municipality" gave an impulse to our work as of 2003 (www.sansz.ro).



Out of these problems, our team engaged into dealing with the problems of orphans and underprivileged youth. We offer information, guidance and counseling, professional courses, trainings, assistance in looking for and keeping a job. We offer temporary shelter and everything that means help for the integration into society of these orphans.



Out of the many seminars and activities, a special project was the completion and inauguration of a shelter for 8-10 disabled adults (protected environment). Thus we improve the system for assisting/helping persons with special needs to have a normal, independent life, according to their individual needs, in the region Odorheiu Secuiesc. The inauguration of this protected shelter was on the 24th of August 2007. At the same time, we arranged and developed a protected workshop where disabled young persons may work and develop through occupational therapy. The project "Home and Protected Workshop in Tăureni, Harghita for young persons with special needs" covered a huge hole in the social net of the region.

Partners:

LIA Foundation, Locodeni
Wolter Foundation, Tăureni

Financiers:

LIA e.V. – Jugenddorf Lokod – Germany
National Authority for Disabled Persons – Romania
Co-operating Netherlands Foundations for CEE

Period of implementation:

Since 1997

Program coordinator:

Árpád ORBÁN

Keeping and promoting the local cultural values of world level in Dârjiu

The degradation of the quality of life and the population decline of old villages with real values from Harghita county is a real problem. These villages have a poor infrastructure and are not developed economically and socially even though there are national and international first class values that could represent the basis for the development (for instance the local history, Church traditions and customs, cultural potential – history of the fortress in Dârjiu, etc.). Culture and economic development may help each other.

The UNESCO patrimony– the fortified Church – must be valorized.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Attract tourists and introduce the fortified church in the European tourist circuit, by promoting the cultural values in Dârjiu;
- Enhancing the local and regional view of the cultural values.

Through the project we printed 10.000 booklets, compiled 2.000 CDs, printed 1.000 books on the painted furniture in the village, and we reached our objectives.

Partners:

“KUCKÓ” Association – Odorheiu Secuiesc
Unitarian Parish in DÂRJIU – Harghita

Financier:

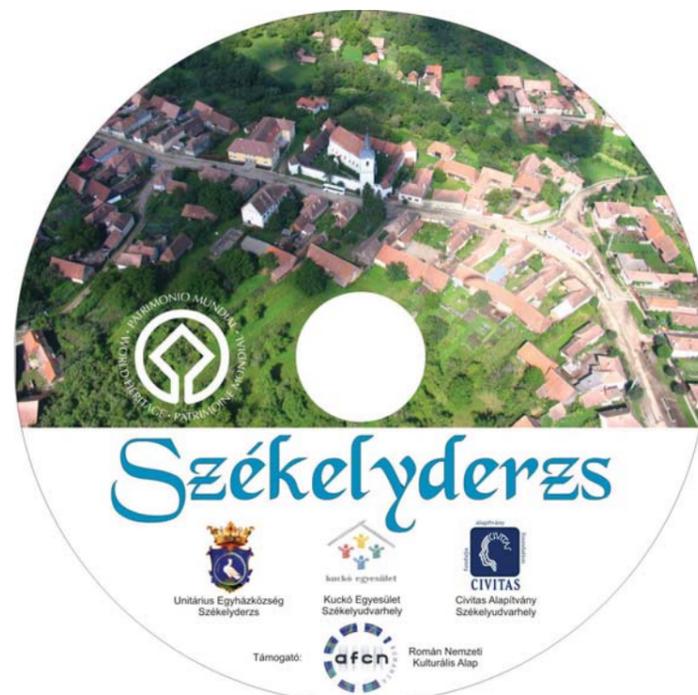
National Cultural Fund Administration – Romania

Period of implementation:

April - November 2007

Program coordinator:

Ilona BENCZE



Other important events that our foundation took part in in 2007

In 2007 Civitas Foundation for Civil Society representatives took part in a series of events, such as:

- **Strengthening Bulgarian and Romanian Civil Society Organisations** – organized by CBN Consortium, Sofia, Bulgaria, 12–18 January 2007.
- **Administrative Capacity Development Operational Program** Bucharest, 30th of January 2007. The seminar consisted of the presentation of the operational program and was organized by the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform.
- **The practice of Community Facilitation in Romania** – organized by the Social Development Romanian Fund, Predeal, 23–25 February 2007.
- **Leader + Observatory Seminar** Corsica, France, 24–26 April 2007. The event was organized by EU contact Point.
- **The day of nonprofit sector without boundaries – second edition** – organized by PEPE Association and Civitalis Association, Budapest, Hungary, 12th of May 2007.
- **Rural Development National Network**, organized in Târgoviște by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The purpose of the meeting was to set up the Rural Development National Network.
- **International Fellowship Program – EFC**, organized by the European Foundation Centre, within this program we were to the Nonprofit Information and Education Centre (NIOK), Budapest, Hungary, 23rd of April – 30th of May 2007.
- **The New Challenges for Global Philanthropy** – the 18th conference of EFC – organized by the European Foundation Centre, Madrid, Spain, 1–3 June 2007.
- **LEADER Seminar: The Role of Rural Development in Improving the Social and Economic Situation of Youth** – organized by LEADER Centre Hungary, Tokaj, Hungary, 13–15 June 2007.
- **Community Participation Development** – the 4th Summer Academy organized by the Hungarian Cultural Institute, Community Development Association and Civic College, Kunbabony, Hungary, 25–29 July 2007.
- **Romanian-Hungarian Conference**, the first Leader Romanian-Hungarian conference and professional days. The event was organized in Nagykeréki-Oradea-Șimian-

Álmosd- Sântimbreu, 30th of August – 1st of September 2007.

- **Education for Development**, location– Cluj Napoca, 27–28 September 2007. The event was organized by PATRIR and envisaged the topic of education for development and fighting poverty.
- **RuralNet National Conference “Are we ready for the structural funds in Romania?”**, 9–10 October 2007. The conference was organized by the RuralNet network with the purpose of increasing the visibility of RuralNet and in order to debate the current issues about community and rural topics.
- **Bulgarian – Romanian – Polish School of Civil Society** 13–19 October 2007. The purpose of this conference was change of experience and concluding partnerships among the NGOs representatives from the three countries.
- **LEADER International Conference** – organized by LEADER Centre in Hungary, Gyongyos, 24–26 October 2007.
- **Civil Organisations as the Building elements of European Participative Democracy** organized in Eger, Eszterházy Károly Főiskola, 16 October 2007. The event was organized under the umbrella of the EU Youth Program.
- **Equal Cost –Regada**, organized in Gyula in 18–20 October 2007 by the Regional Centre for Professional Training and Employment Békéscsaba. Within the event the results of the project were presented.
- **Dissemination Conference within the Hungarian Human Resources Development Operational Program**. The dissemination conference was organized between the 19th and 20th of November 2007 in Gyula (Hungary). Its purpose was to present the accredited courses and the methodologies elaborated by BRKK (Regional Centre for Professional Training in Bekescsaba).
- **I European Conference for Young People „Frontier without barriers. Nobody falls behind in Europe”**. The conference was organized by CECAP JOVEN between the 12th and 17th December 2007 in Toledo (Spain).



Financial report

Financiers

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Incomes | 485.186,00 |
| Donations, sponsorships | 51.321,00 |
| Grants | 65.972,00 |
| Incomes from consulting activities | 117.816,00 |
| Other incomes | 250.077,00 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Expenditures | 478.005,00 |
| Personal costs | 102.597,00 |
| Service costs | 71.650,00 |
| Administrative costs | 38.733,00 |
| Cost of economical activities | 211.853,00 |
| Other costs | 53.172,00 |

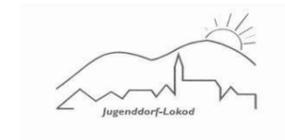
Net result **7.181,00**



European Union Phare Program

Microsoft®

Microsoft România



LIA Deutschland



Szülőföld Alap



Project Harvest Hope



Charles Stewart Mott Foundation



Soros Foundation Romania



Local Council of the Municipality of Cluj-Napoca

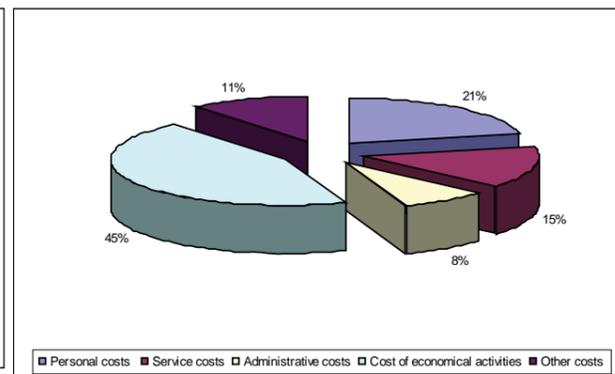
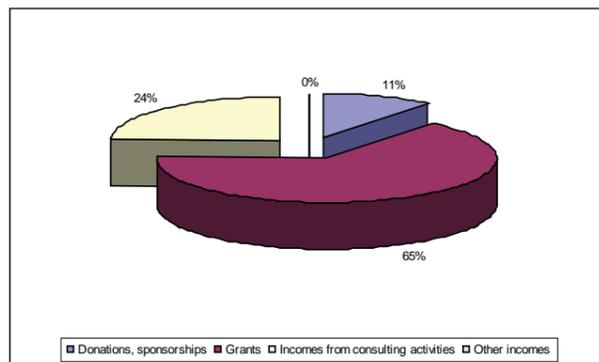


Municipality of Odorheiu Secuiesc

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annual report

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65



Networking

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society is a member of the following national and international networks:

Ruralnet - www.ruralnet.ro

Citizens' Pact for SEE - www.citizenspact.org

Pannonforrás - www.pannonforras.hu

Local Social Partnership - Odorheiu Secuiesc - www.sansz.ro

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaus - www.robcc.ro

Bosporus Internațional Network - www.bosporus.org

Partners

Economic Development Agency - Timiș County (ADETIM)
Northwest Regional Development Agency
Center Regional Development Agency
West Regional Development Agency
Agency of Labor Force of Harghita County
Agora - Working Group for Sustainable Development
CJ Domus Association - Cristuru Secuiesc
Association of Social Cooperatives in the South East Region of Italy - Italy
Provincia Livorno Sviluppo, Livorno, Italia
Micro-regional Association Târnava Mică
Association of Paraplegic Persons of Montenegro
Association for Democratic Initiatives - Macedonia
Pro Democracy Association - Cluj, Romania
LEADER Office Hungary
Chamber of Commerce, Jaen, Spain
Centre for Rural Assistance (CAR) - Timișoara
Hungarian Academy of Sciences - Center for Regional Studies - Pécs
Youth Cultural-Information Centre, Gabrovo - Bulgaria
Antidrug Prevention, Assessment and Counseling Centre Harghita
Public Policy Centre (CENPO) - Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Regional Centre for Professional Training, Békéscsaba, Hungary
Regional Centre for Continuous Professional Training for LPA Cluj
Community Building Mitrovica - Kosovo
Local Councils in Alba, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Covasna, Harghita, Mureș,
Sălaj, Satu Mare and Timiș counties
County Councils of Alba, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Covasna and Hunedoara
Youth Local Council in Zalău
Develoconsult Odorheiu Secuiesc
Europeans and Osijek Municipality- Croatia
Gellért Foundation- Vlăhița
LAM Foundation- Ilieni
LIA Foundation- Locodeni
Wolter Foundation- Tăureni
Fur Menschen in Not Gem. n. Friedrich-Wolter-Stiftung
Harvest Hope Pro Homorod - Ocland
Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe
Youth Parliament Nis - Serbia and Montenegro
Pirgos, Serbia and Montenegro
Municipalities of Carei, Cristuru Secuiesc, Doba, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Vlăhița
Student Government - Tirana, Albania
Youth of Euro Atlantic Club of Macedonia
UNO - Bosnia-Herzegovina
Babeș- Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Political, Administrative
and Communication Sciences



Staff and collaborators

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Gyula BARA – Member
Péter ECKSTEIN KOVÁCS – Member
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Csaba HAJDÓ – Member

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Rozália CSÁKI - project coordinator
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Mónika PAKOT - project assistant

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Mihai VINCZE

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