agenda 21

Asociatia de Asistenta si Programe pentru Dezvoltare Durabila

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Who we are

"Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21" is a Romanian non-governmental association of national interest, not-for-profit and unaffiliated politically or religiously. The association was established in May 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 fulfill this aim the organization assumed the mission to:

- Develop partnerships with local authorities in order to value local initiatives and to increase efficiency of local governance;
- Promote education activities in the Human Rights Field, with emphasis 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, media;
- To provide assistance and support for marginalized groups or groups at risk of social exclusion.

The key-concept of APSD – Agenda 21 is **Sustainable Development**. A safe and prosperous future cannot be thought outside the concept of sustainable development.

Privileged target-groups are **children and young people**. Opportunities for education and development that are offered to children and young people are the guaranty of a healthy society.

Volunteering for the community is one of the fundamental values of the association.

„I know that the door to progress opens only from inside. This is why, together with the team of our organization, we carefully bend to any project brought in our house. Any accomplishment supposes initiative, creativity, bravery and perseverance. We are going on pathless ways. We follow the set direction and we are not afraid of any obstacle. We dream to develop more and more our agenda.

Through our completed projects, especially in the Educational field and Public Administration Field, we are convinced that the economic, social, politic and institutional environment became more friendly. Having a durable life as our aim, we believe that our work will be found in the coordinates of this country.

This is us: a team which goes on beyond the motto uttered once by a wise person: "It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves.". (Professor Doctor Alexandru Taşnadi – The Faculty of Economics at the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, President of association).

2012 – Figures and accomplishments

- ✓ **In February 2012 we turned 9 years of existence.**

„In the Argument that I presented to our founders in our first General Meeting I was trying to define the association using the features which could settle it as a distinct entity in the landscape of civil society. I restore a few statements since then and let the present Report to testify if they are supported by the obtained results." – Nina Cugler, Executive Chairman

The Association "Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21" wishes to:

- Suggest projects meant to answer to real needs of development on local plan, assistance programs meant to prepare the local communities in order to face the new tasks related to their economic and social development, and, especially, to strengthen the institutional capacity to develop the citizens' participative abilities, implementation programs to capitalize efficiently local resources and identify and attract intern and extern funding sources.
- Reunite experts, with experience in the field of elaboration and projects' management, in order to work honestly and professionally and offer reliability and credibility to financiers related to funding use exclusively to fulfill the proposed objectives in the project.
- Pay a special attention to citizens' education and preparation to understand the importance of involvement, to be themselves the main actors of the process of developing their localities, communes or villages.

Regarding the association, Florina Pavel, programme coordinator at APSD – Agenda 21, remarked:
"*The basis of success of this organization* was the desire of changing the custom, still present in many communities, to complain instead of taking action. The association's representation and its brand are based inclusively on the team's capacity to elaborate projects and strategies meant to offer viable solutions to local communities' problems. Volunteers' work and, especially encouraging the youth to express and participate in projects' realization, is one of the issues which gives the association credibility opening to beneficiaries.

- **APSD – Agenda 21 continued to collaborate with members from the Network for promoting Sustainable Development,** initiated by our organization, whose aim, defined by the 23 charter members, consists in "creation of a favorable framework for establishing partnerships among the members of network, for exchanging experience and for according support and expertise in specific fields of sustainable development. The network has an informal and opened nature. The members of the network may be NGOs, local authorities and public institutions.

- **APSD – Agenda 21 is member of ENAR Romania group (European Network Against Racism),** part of the European network ENAR, a network of NGOs which promote the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti – Semitism, and promotes equality of treatment among the European citizens and connects local, regional and national initiatives with European ones.

- In early 2012 the association became **member of Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations for Development from Romania – FNOD.** The association is involved in the work group "Development Education".

- During 2012, the relation of partnership with **MIJARC** continued. **MIJARC** is an international non-profit organization for youth from rural areas, supported by young people from rural areas, which promotes agricultural, rural and international sustainable development, European citizenship, youth politics, gender equality, environmental protection, inter-cultural rights and human rights. Young volunteers of the association attended 2 events organized by MIJARC. The association obtained **the status of observer member**.

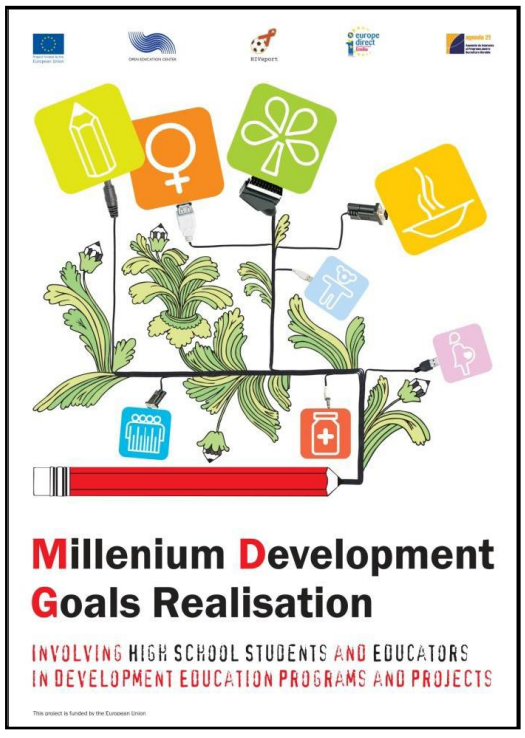
PROJECTS

1. Millennium Development Goals Realization

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

Description
Development Education is part of the obligations which Romania assumed in order to join European Union: defining and developing national policy for an international cooperation.

The main objective of the EU cooperation policy for development **is eradication of poverty in the context of supported development. Also, this issue includes reaching the Millennium Development Goals.**



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

Development education is an active learning process, based on the values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and cooperation, which aims at increasing citizens' involvement **in the process of poverty's** eradication of any type and **in actions which promote social justice.**

The aim of the project is based on involving young people and teachers from 4 countries in EU and from Republic of South Africa in the process of elaboration and promotion of development education programmes.

The topics will be linked to the three pylons from the National Strategy of cooperation and development:

- **Eradication of poverty and social justice.**

It will be emphasized the fact that poverty is not equivalent only with the lack of financial resources, but with the lack of citizens' access to food, education, health services, jobs, political decision, infrastructure.

- **Sustainable development –** *"sustainable development is the development which pursues the satisfaction of present's needs, without compromising the possibility of next generations to satisfy their own needs."* (Brundtland Report).
- **Efficient governance and guaranteeing to respect Human Rights.** It will be taken in consideration the tight correlation which exists between poverty, fragile and/or nondemocratic systems of government and the increase of security risks. There cannot be any development without good governance and the guarantee to respect Human Rights.

There will be taken into account:

- A better understanding of Millennium Development Goals based on Human Rights' approach: the way these objectives reflect global problems and what their realization will mean in global context, but also in people's daily life in developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Inquiry and understanding of these global problems and development processes in the global economic crisis conditions. Young people will be put in the position to reflect at the main causes of HIV/AIDS, discrimination, inequality in chances, poverty, climate changes and at the barriers against overcoming these problems, but also at local, regional, global actions to identify solutions.
- Raising awareness of these problems among young people and raising their capacity to initiate and participate actively, in partnerships with local communities, in actions meant to offer answers to global problems.

Duration

December 2010 – October 2013

Objectives

- Raising teachers' and high-school students' awareness related to global problems and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Developing and turning to good account young people's creative potential in order to be capable to initiate projects based on topics related to global problems, human rights and MDGs;
- Exerting the influence in local communities in order to include development problems, with emphasis on poverty, discrimination and human rights, in local policies.
- Establishing a communication network among educators/teachers/local authorities and young people from developed countries and those in process of developing, meant to contribute in the changing of mentalities and attitudes.

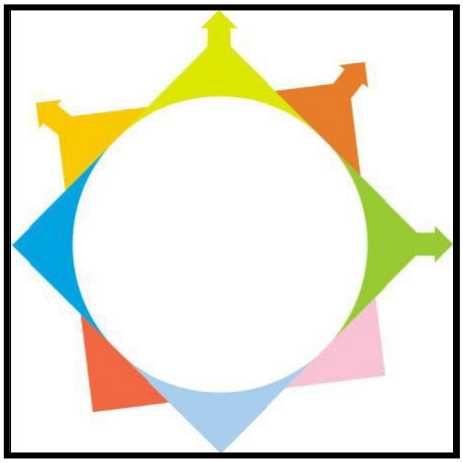
Activities in 2012

1. **Training activities and activities of formal education** meant to ensure the realization of an **Educational Curriculum for development:**
   - 11 new schools involved in the project

- ❖ The "know-how" change and experiences between the participating schools
- ❖ Elaboration and publication of the educational package "*The role of Development Education in MDGs' realization "*
- ❖ Organizing lessons based on the topic of development education both at the high-school and the 2 participating universities level.
- ❖ Official launch of the Documentary - „Football – a game without AIDS"

2. **Activities with young people** in order to realize **projects for development education** both at school and community level.
    - ❖ Organizing the Olympics on Human Rights (international activity)
    - ❖ Implementation of high-school students' projects (national level)
    - ❖ Bilateral projects developed between Bulgaria and Romania by high-school students
    - ❖ Organizing national camps

Expected results



- ✓ Realizing **a Development Education Guide**, a **Trainers' textbook** in the field of development education, **three curricula of Development Education** at national level (Bulgaria, Romania, Italy) and three packages of materials for Development Education at national level (Bulgaria, Romania, Italy), a curricula of Development Educations at international level and a package of Development Education at international level.
- ✓ **Trainings**: training of trainers at international level on the topic of development education and curricula elaboration; three trainings at national level on the topic of development education and elaboration of training courses, moreover, three national trainings for projects' managers on the topic of development education; Olympics on the topic of Human Rights.
- ✓ **A network of 150 educators/teachers and lecturers,** well trained in the field of development education and realization of Millennium Development Goals in the partner countries.
- ✓ **Awareness more than 3000 young people, high-school students and students,** from the partner and associated countries, regarding development problems in the light of Millennium Development Goals and world economic crisis, and an improvement of their abilities to action in order to find solutions for these problems both at school and community level and to realize international bilateral projects with colleagues from countries in the process of developing.
- ✓ **Young people' activities:** 30 projects on the topic of development education which will have the aim to raise the awareness regarding the problems of development educations in countries in the process of developing. The projects will involve more than 600 young people from 8 bilateral projects between the students from Italy, Romania, Bulgaria and South Africa.

- ✓ **80 decision factors, school inspectors and representatives of civil** society trained in the field of implementation and impact of the Development Education curricula.
- ✓ **3 national conferences** (Bulgaria, Romania, Italy) on the topic of Development Education**, an international conference** based on Development Education**, The world summit** of Students on the topic of Millennium Development Goals.

2012 Results

- 11 selected high-schools
- Exchange of experience and know-how between the 22 schools
- Produced materials' dissemination in the new 11 high-schools
- Organizing activities based on the topic of the project between the participant high-schools
- 30 new selected teachers in the implementation team of the project from the new 11 high-schools
- Implementing in schools the projects elaborated by high-school students
- Bilateral projects developed by high-school students from Romania and Bulgaria on the topic of the project
- Organizing The Development Education National Camp
- High-school students and teachers from the involved schools attended the international events: The National Camp from Bulgaria, The Olympics based on Human Rights from Bulgaria and the National Camp from Italy.
- Elaboration and publishing of the educational package "*The role of Development Education in Millennium Development Goals Realization*"
- Realizing lessons on the topic of development education both in high-schools and the 2 participant universities.
- The official launch of the Documentary – "Football – a game without AIDS" and its dissemination together with the educational package associated in schools.

The National Development Education Camp – 61 participants from Romania and Bulgaria. Its objectives were the following:

- Understanding Millennium Development Goals in connection with Human Rights
- Presentation of the projects realized by the pupils and educators from Romania and Bulgaria
- Establishing contacts and elaboration of common projects in order to have Millennium Development Goals realized by the participants in Bulgaria and Romania.
- Preparing the Youth Summit on the topic of "*Millennium Development Goals Realization*"

According to the evaluation forms filled at the end of the camp:

- ✓ 63% from participants were familiar to MDGs before taking part in the project;
- ✓ 46% had information about the problems in Africa;
- ✓ 79% from participants discuss about these problems with friends.

- ✓ When asked *what had been the most important issues that they learnt in this project*, the participants answered the following: 40 people – new information, 34 people – team work, 23 people – elaboration of projects based on the topic of development education, 33 persons – exchange of experience on the topic of the project, 34 persons – getting to know other cultures, traditions.
- ✓ When asked what information will bring home and how they would use it in future, the participants answered:
  - "*I will disseminate the information to other persons who are not aware of the global problems."*
  - *"I will leave with information about globalization, problems in Africa and I will use them in future project in order to try to find solutions."*
- *"New working methods"*
- *"I had the chance to be educated – chance that others don't have. "*

The National Camp in Bulgaria (23rd – 27th of June) took place in Primorsko and reunited participants from Bulgaria, Romania and Italy. The delegation which represented the association had 10 high-school students and 2 teachers.
Participants' impressions:

"This multicultural camp offered me the opportunity to understand the current problems of the world and find solutions for them." – Lucian Nițescu

"This summer camp was a beautiful experience, we made new friends, we presented our projects and learnt how to understand better the problems of the world we live in, in order to take more care of it in the future." – Cristian Popescu

The Olympics on Human Rights from Bulgaria (19th – 23rd of June) reunited participants from Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Slovakia, South Africa, Kazakhstan and United Kingdom. The main objective of this edition was to analyze the realization's level of objectives no. 4, 5, 6 in Africa, to discuss on the topic of reproductive health and understanding MDGs in connection with human rights. The Romanian delegation had 10 high-school students and 2 teachers.
Participants' impressions:
"The camp from Primorsko was the most beautiful experience I ever attended, being the first time I traveled abroad. I was delighted to meet people prim Italy, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Kazakhstan, United Kingdom with whom I formed friendships which I want to turn to good account in time. I was impressed by the easiness I worked together with people from other countries and also, when I realized how many similarities are between us. The project which impressed me the most was the one related to sexual abuses of minors – the same one I worked for 6 hours with my colleagues). I'm feeling proud that I worked with so wonderful people and I wish from the bottom of my heart to return next year. "– Radu Mihai Alin Dobre

Cristian Dan tells that *"this camp represented for him an opportunity to exercise his competence to speak English with many unknown persons who came from other countries in order to change experiences and form friendships with different people. He believes that some developed projects can be put into practice in the high school where he studies realizing the existence of some serious global problems. Dan was grateful for the opportunity he was offered to and which had a positive effect on him."*

Co-financing
European Commission through the financing line *"Non-state actors and local authorities in process of development. The level of awareness and development education in Europe*

Partners:
The main applicant: Open Education Centre – Bulgaria
Partners:

- Assistance and programs for sustainable development – Agenda 21 – Romania
- Carrefoure Europeo Emilia – Italia
- HIVSports – UK

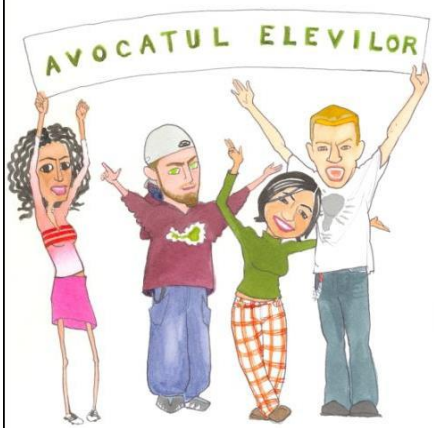
Associated in the project:
Republic of South Africa – Nasila Selasini Rembe/ UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights, University Fort Hare

Local partners

- The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport
- The Scholar Inspectorate of Bucharest
- The Scholar Inspectorate of Ilfov county
- The City hall of Bucharest and the city halls of the six districts
- Romanian Radio Society
- "Media" technical College, Bucharest
- "Emil Racoviță" National College, Bucharest
- "Nicolae Kretzulescu" Superior Commercial School, Bucharest
- "Anghel Saligny" Technical College, Bucharest
- "Gheorghe Șincai" National College, Bucharest
- "Gheorghe Lazăr" National College, Bucharest
- "Viilor" Economic College, Bucharest
- "Dumitru Moțoc" Technical College of Food Industry, Bucharest
- "Grigore Moisil" National College, Bucharest
- "Elena Cuza" National College, Bucharest
- "Ioan Petrus" High-school Otopeni, Ilfov county
- "Viaceslav Harnaj" Agricultural College
- "Decebal" Bilingual High-school
- "Matei Basarab" National College
- "Dimitrie Leonida" Technical College
- "Mircea Vulcanescu" Technological High school
- "Mihai Viteazul" National College
- "Mihail Sadoveanu" High school
- "Virgil Madgearu" Economic College

- ❖ "Gh Airinei" Technical College of Post and Telecommunications
- ❖ "Eugen Lovinescu" Highschool
- ❖ "Little London" Secondary School

2. STUDENT'S OMBUDSMAN (THE 6th YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION)



Description

Student's ombudsman is a programme which has as the main aim creation and implementation in schools a capable institution of providing knowledge, promotion and children's rights' respect. Presently, the programme is implemented in 300 schools from 25 counties. Since 2010 the project was included in the Schedule of educational activities of the Ministry of Education.

According to regulation, Student's ombudsman includes 7 people, as follows:

- ➢ 5 students – inclusively the president of Students' Council
- ➢ 1 teacher – usually School Counselor
- ➢ 1 parent – appointed by the President of Parents' Committee
- ➢ The coordinator of Students' ombudsman – a student, other than the Students' Council President

Responsibilities:

- ✓ Identifying the problems/situations of students' rights violation
- ✓ Facilitating cooperation between students/parents and school board
- ✓ Proposing solutions in agreement with the responsible teachers
- ✓ Mediating the conflict situations in schools, within the limits of competences established by the Code of Conduct
- ✓ The process of monitoring in order to watch the way the problems were resolved

Duration

January – December 2012

Activities

In 2012 the project included the thematic camp **"Summer school "Student's ombudsman – promoter of children's rights in schools"** which was organized in Băișoara, Cluj County (3rd – 6th September 2012).

The summer school reunited young people from 32 counties in Romania. These were

selected from 32 county Students' Ombudsman Departments of the National Student's Council.
Like every year, the Summer School was very appreciated by the young people, being considered by them as a necessity in their education so that they become capable to coordinate at the county level the activity of such a department.

The school's content was prepared by a team of three trainers, based on the young people' expectations mentioned in the registration forms. So, the working time was mainly dedicated to exchanging experience between the participant counties, training workshops on topics like: children rights, communication and conflict management and Student's Ombudsman promotion in school. Also, agenda included "getting to know each other" sessions, presentation of the project's context and evolution, and a special session dedicated to changing ideas and projects, in which, the young people worked, divided in groups to realize new projects at the level of some counties and to suggest ideas of promotion for the Student's ombudsman department.

Results
At the end of the Summer School, the participants filled an evaluation form. The results show the fact that, generally the Summer School reached its objectives, and its content will help the young people in their activity as Student's Ombudsmen.

Regarding the participants' expectations, the evaluation's results show that the School succeeded in satisfying almost 72% of participants recording a 90% or 100 % level of satisfaction.

For this year, the Summer School "Student's Ombudsman" has set itself to fulfill the following goals:

- Creating a group of 30 multipliers capable of sharing their information and knowledge to the new elected.
- Realizing an exchange of experience between the participant counties
- Identifying new projects which can be implemented at regional and national level

Most of the participants consider that the School fulfilled its objectives, especially the one regarding offering practical information about projects, cases and solutions.

All who attended the Summer Schools confirmed the fact that participating in the activity would be useful in their future work. The School's content helped the young people not only to get more information about the project, their activities, but also about the responsibilities of this project.

The introduced modules in the training's agenda were selected and developed on the registration forms filled by the participants. Most of them considered that the most interesting modules were the following: "Thematic workshop II – Communication and mediating conflicts", "Getting to know the participants" and the "Session of ideas, projects and cooperation plans".

Regarding the utility of modules from the programme, the most appreciated modules were: "Getting to know the participants", "Thematic workshop I – Children Rights" and "Thematic workshop II – Communication and mediating conflicts".

In the participants' folder were included the following materials: the short version of the Convention regarding Children Rights in print and a CD which contained the next materials: the two methodological

guidelines elaborated in the project, presentations of cases, SO magazines, the Summer School from Sulina – 2009 Movie, The project's textbook, UN Convention, SO leaflets and Recommendations of the Committee for Children Rights of UN regarding the report submitted by Romania – 2009.

Co-funded by
The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport

Partners
The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport
The National Students' Council

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

Participation and social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities represents a priority at the European level.
The European Council required to the member states and European Commission to give priority to these youth categories according to The Lisbon Strategy, the measures of The European Youth Pact and the national strategies for young people's attendance.
The EU's vision is supported by the one of the European Council which reaffirms in the Revised European Charta for young people's participation in local and regional life that they are the present's citizens, and not only future's citizens and this is the reason why they should have access at all the forms of participation in society.

Goal
The project's goal is to strengthen the participation of young people with fewer possibilities in their community and to help them reach their maximum potential through volunteering and active participation activities.

Objectives:

- Identifying and analyzing the needs of the participation of young people with fewer opportunities in democratic life, using the help of young volunteers from all the three partner countries.
- Recognizing and appreciating the participation experiences of young people with fewer opportunities in all the three partner countries in the project.

- Strengthen the participative democracy in the three countries through the realization of an exchange of experiences and non-formal education with young people, public authorities and civil society.
- Developing procedures and guidelines to strengthen the capacity of youth associations to action, to improve the participation of young people with fewer opportunities.
- Promoting volunteering as a form of participation which can strengthen young people with fewer opportunities to action in their own benefit.
- Developing models and tools for different categories of involved actors in young people's participation which can be used by other youth groups with fewer possibilities and including them in a Toolkit.
- Promoting the cooperation at the European level in the field of participation of young people with fewer opportunities, by creating a network between participants involved in the project.

Duration
September 2011 – October 2012

Activities:

1st of September – 31st of December 2012 | **1st of January – 31st of July 2012** | **1st of August - 31st of October 2012**

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

Direct beneficiaries in Romania and Italy

- 20 young volunteers
- 240 young people with fewer opportunities
- 6 responsible experts at local and regional level
- 240 young people who actions as multipliers
- 16 young people with fewer opportunities who attend the international seminar

Results
Realizing a "**Study about the need of participation of the youth community with fewer opportunities in the democratic life." The research was realized in Romania and Italy and addressed to population, aged between 15 and 35 from rural areas. Some conclusions of the study at national level are the following:**

- ✓ Most of interviewees consider that participation means involvement in activities (answering to the question "What do you think participation is?" (Opened question).

- ✓ Participation is most often equated with the act of voting;
- ✓ The action which arises the biggest confusion regarding its identification as a form of participation is "taking part to simulations of the way the local authorities work";
- ✓ The most important actors in participation are considered to be the teachers and the parents;
- ✓ Schools, young people, teachers and parents are the actors with the most important role in youth participation;
- ✓ Almost 70% of young interviewees have never been involved in an extra-curricular activity;
- ✓ The main representative structure of young people in school is the "Students' council";
- ✓ Most of the young people consider that they take part in the decisions made in their classroom;
- ✓ Most of the young people have never been involved in projects developed by the local authorities;
- ✓ Young people consider that they are not represented at the level of local authorities;
- ✓ Most of young people don't know anything about the existence of activities developed by NGOs in their communities;
- ✓ Most of young people have never been involved in activities developed by NGOs;
- ✓ Young people believe that NGOs are interested in involving the youth in their activity;
- ✓ Young people believe volunteering an activity/initiative represent a sort of community help without being paid;
- ✓ Only 26% of young interviewees have been involved in volunteering activities;
- ✓ The top reason why young people are volunteering is their desire to be helpful to others;
- ✓ Most of the young people have never been volunteers because they didn't have any information about such opportunities or they didn't have time;
- ✓ The internet is considered the main source of communication with young people;

The international seminar

The international seminar was held on 15th – 22nd of July. There were selected 9 young participants in the project from Romania between 17 and 24 years old, and from Italy there participated 7 young people aged between 23 and 30 years. The seminar represented an occasion to change experiences and good practices between the two countries, among young people, local authorities and civil society.

Follow-up meetings
The follow-up meetings took place in October, not only in Romania, but also in Italy. In each country were organized 4 follow-up meetings, where 240 young people with fewer opportunities from the target group from both countries participated. The meetings were held by the young participants from the international seminar which presented and shared the Toolkit realized in the project and its outcomes as well, multiplying their own experience of participation.

Toolkit – The participation of young people with fewer opportunities
The Toolkit represents the main tool to disseminate the outcomes of the project, but also, a working tool for young people, decision factors and all the people who were direct or indirect beneficiaries of this project. The Toolkit was published in September 2012 and it was developed with the purpose of contributing to the comprehension of the main concepts related to young people's participation and to propose actions which can be implemented by young people, local authorities and young people associations in order to contribute to the increase of the young people's participation with fewer opportunities. The content of the Toolkit represents exclusively the work of young participants and decision factors involved in the project from Romania and Italy.
The Toolkit's structure: a brief introduction where it's explained the way this Toolkit was created, a chapter dedicated to Youth in Action Programme in order to make the young people aware of the opportunities this programme offers to them, a chapter dedicated to the project "Involving young people with fewer opportunities in the process of making decisions", presented as a good practice with power of exemplarity at the European level, a brief presentations of the categories of young people with fewer opportunities, a chapter dedicated to the main concepts related to young people's participation, to the process of participation and the process of making decisions and a chapter related to the Strategy of increasing the opportunities of participation of young people with fewer opportunities, strategy elaborated by the young people from Italy and Romania during the local meeting.
The Toolkit's contents was drawn up in English and translated in Romanian and Italian in order to be accessible to all the young people from the countries involved in the project, and other young people interested in the young people's opportunities of participation increase with fewer opportunities as well. All the three versions were included in a single publication, printed in 600 copies and available in all the three languages in electronic format.

Radio shows dedicated to the project
There were realized 5 Radio Shows in order to promote the project with the support of the Romanian Radio Society. Their targets were the following:

- ✓ The project's presentation, the reason this project was launched, the Youth in Action Programme, the partners' involvement, telephone interventions from the Italy partners.
- ✓ The outcomes of the research
- ✓ Aspects and outcomes from the first local meeting
- ✓ Aspects and outcomes from the international seminar
- ✓ The project's impact, dissemination and follow-up

Co-funded by
European Commission for Youth in Action programme, Action 1.3 – Projects for Participative Democracy

The main applicant
Assistance and Programmes for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21, Romania

Partners
- Ilfov Couny, Romania
- Arci Nuova Associazione Comitato Provinciale Chieti, Italia
- Informagiovani Vasto, Italia

4. LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE PLANET

Description

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

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

General objectives

- In Europe, to reinforce the socially responsible impetus and commitment of the young citizens on the issues related to a sustainable development
- To give concrete continuity to the international process initiated by the Brazilian Ministry of Education, by contributing to diffuse, open debate and implement the international Youth Charter - Let's Take Care of the Planet - that was jointly written by youth from 47 countries, in Brasilia in 2010
- To allow the European young people to express their ideas to political and economic local actors, and to international authorities
- To Bring a contribution of the youth to Rio+20 event

In January 2012, APSD – Agenda 21 joined the 15 countries in the projects "Let's take care of the planet", an initiative of MondePluriel organization from France, which was inspired by the Ministry of Education from Brazil as a result of the International Conference for Children and Young People, held between the 5th and the 10th of June 2010 in Brazil. APSD – Agenda 21 is the national coordinator of the activities in Romania.

Target group

The project has as target group educational institutions, promoting young people's and teachers' involvement.

Activities and outcomes

The process begins at local level, in the classroom, where the teachers discuss with young people, analyze and propose actions which can be implemented at local level. There take place local conferences within which young people elect representatives. The next step consists in organizing a national conference, where the young representatives elected participate, present projects, debate and take the decisions regarding the responsibilities they can assume at national level. During the national conference there are elected the national representatives. They attend a European Conference, with the other young people's representatives from the countries where the project is developing. The final step is the participation in The Earth's Summit RIO +20, where young people interact directly with political leaders from all the countries.

In our country 12 schools answered to our call to be involved in this project in 2012, developing local activities between February and March 2012. The local activities included Posters, Essays, Writing projects contests. The National Conference was organized in Bucharest, on 5th of April 2012 and gathered 55 participants. The topic of the conference was "Sustainable schools and territories", and the activities consisted in a debate regarding The National Strategy of Romania for Sustainable Development, followed by the presentation of projects created by young people. At the end of the conference, the present young people elected 2 representatives who participated in the European Conference in Brussels: Andreea Mirela Tătaru, from "Grigore Moisil" National College from Bucharest and Adriana Martin, from "Elena Cuza" National College from Bucharest.

The two young girls, accompanied by a teacher and a facilitator attended the European Conference in Brussels, organized between 14th and 16th of May 2012, at the headquarter of the Committee of Regions. The conference gathered 80 delegates from 16 countries, 12 young facilitators and 25 teachers. For three days, the young delegates attended thematic workshops (biodiversity, natural resources, energy, consumption, transport, health and solidarity, creative collective workshops (realizing an open letter to the decision makers, journalism workshop, posters, video and music), study visit to relevant institutions in Brussels and debates with European politicians. At the end of the conference,

young people realized a flash mob in front of the European Parliament, with the message “Let’s take care of the planet”.

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

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

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

5. MIJARC

MIJARC European Coordinators’ Meeting

Europe 2012

MIJARC European coordinators’ meeting represents an annual event which gathers the national coordinators who represent all the MIJARC member organziations. MIJARC Europe is a non-profit organization for and composed of young people who come from rural areas. The organization promotes sustainable agriculture, rural and international development, European citizenship, youth policies, gender equality, environemntal protection , interculturalism and Human Rights. The metodology used by MIJARC Europe is “See – Judge – Act”, which is aimed at encouraging youth participation in order to build the future of tomorrow’s Europe.

According to the MIJARC Europe status, the team of the European coordinators acts as an observer, consulting, supporting and monitoring the European coordinators team. It represents the highest body of making decisions among the General Assemblies.
In 2012, the European coordinators’ meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium, between 31st of March and 1st of April, and APSD – Agenda 21, was represented by Florina Pavel, programmes coordinator in the association. During the meeting APSD-Agenda 21 was appointed observer member. The meeting was attended by young coordinators from MIJARC member

organizations from the following countries: France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Portugal. The agenda included a presentation session of the member organizations' activities, followed by an extensive session in order to prepare the General Assembly and the seminar based on topics regarding migration. Also, in the meeting, there was presented the MIJARC Statement regarding Human Rights and it was officially launched by the MIIJARC campaign for Human Rights promotion.

MIJARC Summer camp 2012 - "Let's talk about diversity"

The event organized annually by the European Organization MIJARC Europe, the summer camp for young people, took place in 2012 in Velingrad, Bulgaria and it was hosted by YMDRAB – Bulgaria. Between the 19th – 26th of August, 44 young people who came from rural areas from Belgium, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Malta, Bulgaria met to discuss about diversity.

The young people had the chance to consider their own identity, cultural aspects from the different countries represented there, to learn more about concepts like cultural identity or intercultural sensibility and worked together in order to raise awareness regarding minorities, cultural stereotypes, cultural differences and similarities among young people in Europe. At the end of the whole week of non-formal activities and creative workshops, young people decided that motto of the event should be "People for people!"

APSD-Agenda 21 was represented in this event by 6 young people, beneficiaries of the organization's projects, for whom the experience was an unforgettable one, as it can be noticed in the following utterances:

"It was a wonderful week. Now I can say that I have friends all over the Europe, and this thing happened in only one week. I hope to keep in touch because this was one of the best weeks in my life, with a lot of fun and interesting activities. I believe that "fun" should be the connection between all the people because all of us need to have fun from time to time." – Bogdan

"Thank you for giving to me the opportunity to go in this fantastic summer camp. It was a unique experience which taught me many new thins and changed me in a positive way. From now on I'll be capable to be socially active and I will try to share this experience with my friends. The most important thing is that I made new friends and that I'm more than happy to meet them again next year, or, who knows, maybe earlier." – Radu.

6. Migration – a challenge for rural development in Europe

Description
35 young people from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Hungary met in Toledo, Spain, to explore and consider the challenges that are brought by the migration phenomenon in rural areas. The seminar was organized by the European organization MIJARC Europe. APSD – Agenda 21, MIJARC Europe member from February 2012, was represented by a delegation of 4 people, volunteers or beneficiaries of out organization's projects.

Duration
2nd - 5th of July 2012

Activities and outcomes
For 4 days, the participants worked together using the method "See – Judge – Act" and educational non-formal techniques which allowed them to share with the others the realities from rural areas they came from and good practices in the field. Furthermore, the young people analyzed the impact migration has concerning the wellbeing of rural areas in Europe and worked together to understand better the situation of emigrants and immigrants generally at the level of the whole world and especially at the level of Europe. They created common strategies in order to allow the change of vision on migration and acceptance of the fact that this phenomenon can contribute at the sustainable rural development in Europe and the rest of the world.

The seminar was prepared by a team which had one of the APSD – Agenda 21 members in. The team facilitated the whole process and had prepared before the beginning of the seminar a paper addressed to the participants in order to get used to the most important aspects of migration.

The participants had plenary sessions and worked, most of the time, divided in three groups: "Migration and human dignity", "Migration and multiculturalism" and "Migration and rural development". The agenda included study cases, presentations made by experts on migration, cultural evenings and meetings with the association of immigrants from Spain. At the end of the seminar, the participants created a promoting video regarding their campaign of tolerance and acceptance of migration as a phenomenon which contributes to the development of the communities and, also, a Toolkit which young educators and trainers can use in their work.

Co-funded by:
European Commission through the programme Youth in Action

7. O.R.A.: young people for sustainable, social and economic development

Description: organizing an exchange of young people using the methodologies of non-formal education (learning by doing, peer education, exchange of experience) in a context which assures the needs of self-learning of participants.

Duration: 10 days, the 1st – 10th of September 2012

Activities:
There were realized 3 parallel workshops, meetings and visits, but also a public event to disseminate to the local community the outcomes of the workshops.

Participants' testimonial:
"I liked the fact that every person who participated in the project had an activity field different from the others' fields. It helped me to tackle the ideas of sustainable development from many points of view." – Mircea Calin Rusu
"The experience is an unforgettable one. I had the chance to learn, discover, and develop myself. I can say that now I'm a different human. Now I am ready to help more the country in tiny ways with impacts on the future. We talk for nothing about the world's problems if our planet, the house that protects us day by day, needs us more than anything, voices able to fight for its fairness." – Andrada Ilie

Location
Torino di Sangro and Fossacesia, Italy

Co-funded by:
European Commission through the programme Youth in Action

Partners
Italia – ARCI Chieti
Marea Britanie – Groundwork
Bulgaria – Centre for Sustainable Civil Society
Germania – Roter Baum
Bosnia Herzegovina – Zdravo da Ste
Romania – APSD - Agenda 21

The volunteers' network

Through its projects, APSD – Agenda 21 pursues, among others, to raise the Romanian citizens' level of involvement, offering to all the people, social or professional categories the opportunity to improve the environment they live in.

The category of people which is especially encouraged to involve in the association's projects is represented by young people, contributing in this way to their personal and professional development. They become responsible citizens by facing new situations, by participating actively in the process of transformation the society they live in, by raising awareness of their involvement's importance.

Funds

In 2012, APSD – Agenda 21 received funds from:

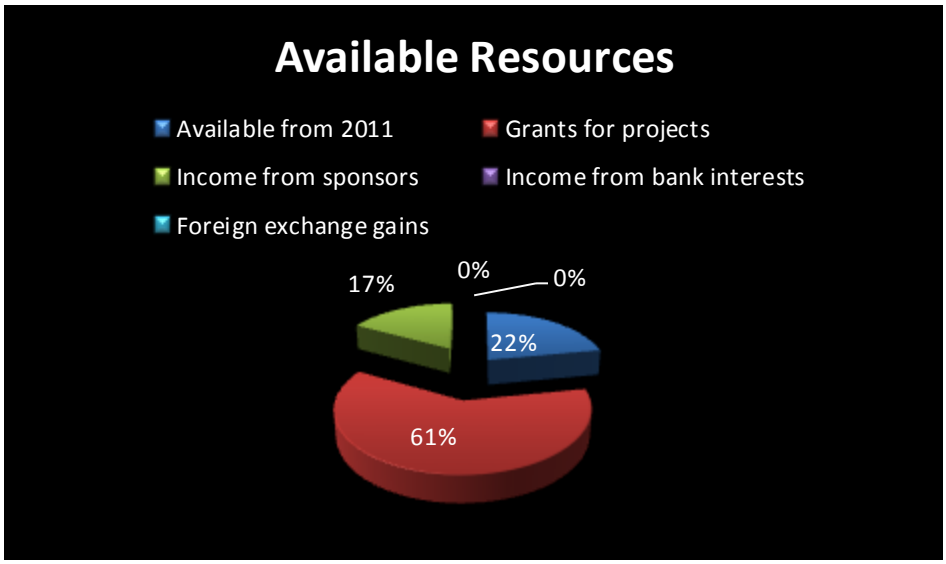
- ✓ European Commission through the programme Youth in Action
- ✓ European Commission through the programme EuropeAid Non-state actors and local authorities in development. Public awareness and education for development in Europe.
- ✓ The European Union – The Committee of the Regions
- ✓ The Rhône-Alpes Region
- ✓ The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- ✓ The Ministry of National Education

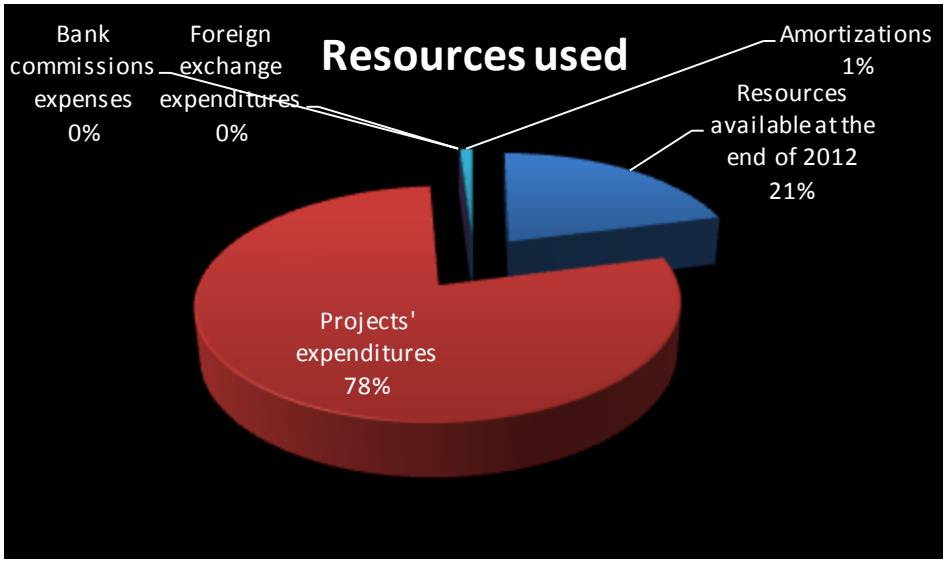
Financial Report 2012

Available resources	RON	EURO
Available resources from 2011	92.058,20	20.786,73
Grants for projects	256.552,13	57.929,44
Income from sponsors	72.756,98	16.428,52
Income from bank interests	1.379,48	311,49
Foreign exchange gains	718,04	162,13
TOTAL	**423.464,83**	**95.618,31**

Resources used	RON	EURO
Resources available at the end of 2012	85.136,57	19.223,83
Projects' expenditures	323.999,52	73.159,06
Bank commissions expenses	1.953,19	441,03
Foreign exchange expenditures	146,15	33,00
Amortizations	2.313,76	522,45
TOTAL	**413.549,19**	**93.379,36**

Cash available	RON	EURO
Balance at 31.12.2012 RON	74.155,43	16.744,29
Balance at 31.12.2012 EURO	10.981,14	2.479,54
TOTAL	**85.136,57**	**19.223,83**


Available Resources
Available from 2011
Grants for projects
Income from sponsors
Income from bank interests
Foreign exchange gains
17%
0%
0%
22%
61%


Resources used
Bank commissions expenses 0%
Foreign exchange expenditures 0%
Amortizations 1%
Resources available at the end of 2012 21%
Projects' expenditures 78%