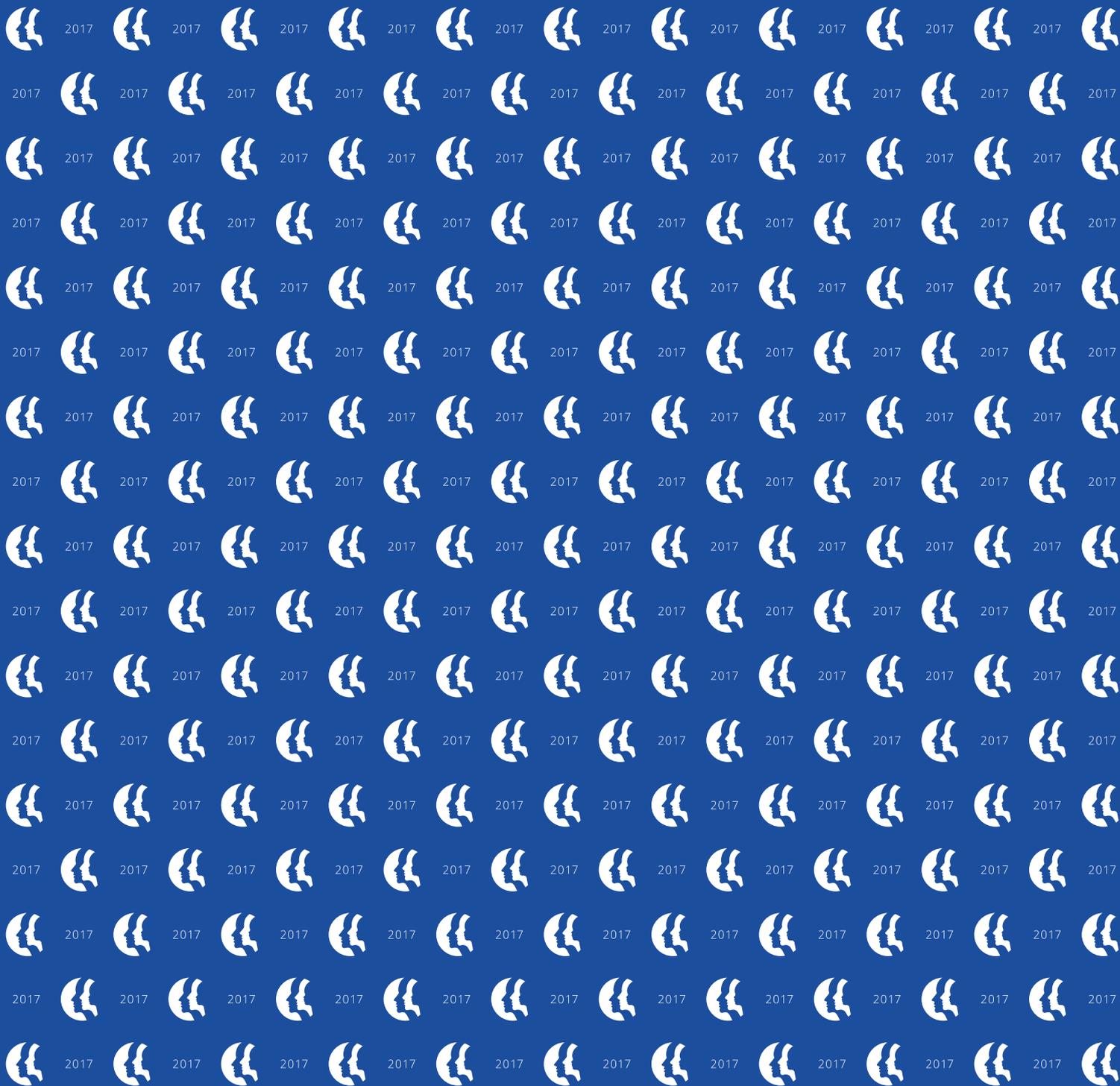




Civitas

Fundația - Alapítvány - Foundation

2017 Annual Report



Contents

Our Mission	2	Rural Economic Development	24
Fields of Involvement	4	Cooperation Between Beekeepers and Medicinal Plant Producers for Creating the “Tea Box”	25
Our Chairman’s Message	6	Eco-Motive	26
Our Activity in 2017		COOP NET - Network of facilitators for developing associative structures	28
Community Development and Good Governance	11	Fruits Festival 2017 (9th edition)	29
Integrated Measures for Marginalized Communities from the Transylvanian Plain Area	12	Social Integration of Under-privileged People from Rural Areas through Sustainable Collection and Processing of Medical Plants	30
Agricultural High-Schools - Local Hubs for Developing Small and Medium Farms	14	FOOD HUB - Developing an integrator centre model for local products	32
Supporting the Local Action Groups in Building and Implementing Local Development Strategies	16	Financial Report	34
Social Economy and Entrepreneurship	18	Organizations Mentored by Civitas	35
CAVA - Competences for micro-processing agricultural products	19	Civitas Consulting	35
Civil Society Empowerment	20	Our Team	36
ONGFest Civic Break - Cluj-Napoca	21	Funders and Partners	38
COMPASS - COMPetences for Agencies for Sustainable Site conversion	22		
Citizen Advice Office in Odorheiu Secuiesc	23		

We are the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society

We run programs and projects within the local and regional development field. We build inovative and sustainable intervention models that have social impact. Our organisation is represented by two regional offices in the North-West and Center development regions of Romania, respectively in the cities of Cluj-Napoca and Odorheiu Secuiesc.

We are a leader of the non-profit sector. Small enough to be accepted at a local level and large enough to play the role of a strategic partner for large funders.

Our mission

To increase the development capacity of local communities through building success models that trigger well-being.

Our vision

Our vision
Our vision is that people in local communities can improve their daily lives by getting involved in innovative and sustainable social impact programs. We believe in the power of communities and civic involvement. We also believe that citizens and local administration have to come together to transform initiatives into projects, plans into reality and development opportunities into prosperity.

During the past 25 years we achieved



200+

Successfully implemented projects



110+

Accomplished partnerships



35+

Development strategies delivered

Our Fields of Involvement

We run regional and local development programs and projects in the following sub-fields:

- **Community Development and Good Governance** 
- **Social Economy and Entrepreneurship** 
- **Civil Society Empowerment** 
- **Rural Economic Development** 



The Civitas Foundation at the Age of 25

Message from our chairman, KOLUMBÁN Gábor



Reaching the age of 25 is an important step for anyone. It is the age of maturing, the moment when a person understands his role in society, assumes responsibility for what he does, becomes independent and aware of himself or herself in relationship with others. It is statistically the moment when one commits to a partner by establishing a family and building a career.

However, for an organization, reaching the age of 25 is even more important. It is a significant milestone in the ephemeral world of civil society organizations. We (the board, the management, employees and partners) have every reason to be proud that, in these times of dramatic changes, we have managed to successfully complete this chapter of our existence, after twenty-five

years of continuous activity. The pages of this Annual Report, which you are about to browse, mark this special moment.

As a „mature“ organization we continue to believe in citizens' initiatives and in the power of cooperation. We rely on solid partnerships and have started to invest more in the foundation's autonomy and sustainability.

The programs described within this report mirror the fact that we have a complex approach on supporting

civil society. Our initiatives show our colleagues commitment and the organization's well-managed environment, as well as the level of expertise and knowledge gathered throughout the years.

Both our colleagues from Cluj and Odorheiu Secuiesc function in offices which they own, we rely on trustworthy funders with whom we have developed strong credibility and we have a steady and settled team of professionals.

We are initiators and leaders in developing development programs based on community participation in Romania. Social innovation initiatives and responsibility continue to engage and motivate us. We maintain and support the social economy enterprises and cooperatives which

we have launched during the previous years. We constantly and consciously build based on the results of our first twenty-five years.

The moment of celebration also led to self-examination and planning for the future. In the same time, maintaining the foundation and its system of values becomes more of a challenge. It is why the foundation's board conceived "Civitas 25+", a strategy document containing our approaches for the future.

Organizational development, entrepreneurial culture, networking and increased financial independence are the main directions which we will follow during the years to come. Our brand, expertise and experience offer solid ground for us to achieve those goals.





In 2017 we turned 25 years old. This is a group picture with some of the people who were part of the Civitas family during this time

(Photograph from March 2018, taken at the "Civitas 25+" Gala / Photographer: Mihai Biriş)



Projects implemented throughout 2017



Magyarország Kormányának Nemzeti Fejlesztési Politikai Kabinetje
Magyarország Kormányának Nemzeti Fejlesztési Politikai Kabinetje

Vidéken élő hátrányos helyzetű személyek szociális integrálása fenntartható foglalkoztatás és -fejlesztés útján

Erdélyi
Központ

Community Development and Good Governance

We bring citizens and local administration together, in order to build and to apply initiatives that generate prosperity.

Project:

Integrated Measures for Marginalized Communities in the Transylvanian Plain Area

Starting date:

September 4, 2017

Ending date:

September 3, 2020

Budget:

10.201.483,22 RON

Funding:

European Social Fund through the Human Capital Operational Programme (POCU) 2014-2020

Our status:

Applicant

Office:

Cluj-Napoca

Partners: The Center for a Sustainable Society Association, Geaca Commune, Diakonia Christian Foundation, Cornești Commune, Geaca Secondary School



The project aims to contribute to the development of two marginalized communities within the Transylvanian Plain area: the communes of Geaca and Cornesti.

455 people living in precarious conditions will benefit from better access to education and employment opportunities, medical and social services. The challenge is to build an intervention model through which people will get involved into the development their communities. We plan to replicate this model in other areas. Our endeavor is built on three strategic goals.

The first is to improve access to education and prevent student to drop out of school. Afterschool programs will be implemented in each commune, for a two year period. For the first time, some of the children will be able to compensate their deficiencies at school subjects, do their homework in an appropriate environment and take part in educative games, sports and workshops. They will have a place where to learn about personal hygiene (e.g. hands and teeth washing) or Civic Education (traffic rules, good manners etc.) Parents will benefit from parental education

sessions. Ten pre-school children from each of the communities will participate at a summer kindergarten program; this way we plan to encourage the subscription into the education system of children from underprivileged families. These children will receive free daily meal, school supplies, personal hygiene products, toys and transportation. The second strategic goal is the employment, increase of chances of employment and maintaining the employed status for 228 people from both communes. We will organize apprenticeship programs, internships, training courses (electrician, baker, mechanic, builder, barber, caretaker etc.) Moreover, we commit to support 12 people from Geaca and Cornesti to open their own local businesses by funding their business plans with 25.000 euros each.

The third objective is to facilitate social integration and living standards increase. Members from the communities will be involved in volunteering activities. At least 30 households will receive septic tanks and 50 other households will benefit from fountain and home cleaning and sanitation services. Through our project we will change the joinery and windows for dozens of homes belonging to underprivileged people. "What we mostly wish is to increase their capacity to identify and solve the problems of their community by themselves, through communication and cooperation. There are many challenges, but in the end we plan to have a good practice model which we can easily embed into other communities and to trigger change starting on a vertical axis, starting down", says Andreea Suci, Program Director.



Project:

Agricultural High Schools - Local Hubs for Developing Small and Medium Farms

Starting date:

October 2015

Ending date:

October 2017

Budget:

132.000 USD

Funding:

Romanian-American
Foundation

Our status:

Applicant

Office:

Cluj-Napoca

Partners: World Vision
Romania (WVR), Junior
Achievement România (JAR),
Center for Education in
Economy and Development
(CEED), Romanian Center
for European Policies (CRPE)



The main goal was to connect agricultural high school students to the jobs market in a more efficient way. In order to achieve this we have designed a study visit pilot framework for students. We have applied this model on eight agricultural high schools.

The project proposes a solution to some of the issues within the Romanian agricultural educational system: scarce practical activities, few relevant case studies and good practice agricultural entrepreneurial examples reaching the students. Resolving these challenges should develop the students' entrepreneurial

abilities and motivate them to follow a career path in this field. We have visited all of the high schools enlisted in this program (eight of them, from every historical region in the country) and we have discussed with the directors and teachers about the students' and teachers' real needs, about their interests and the opportunity of such study visits.

The main goal for this study visits, attended by 15 students and two teachers from each high school, was to study the short distribution chain and successful small and medium agricultural businesses. We have

organized eight departures, 4 days each, on two major fields of interest: animal husbandry (zooculture) and horticulture. We aimed to motivate the students so that they will choose a career path in agriculture and we also aimed to provide new perspectives and methods for the teachers, in order to replicate these visits.

“It was a big challenge, but in the same time a huge feeling of accomplishment! We have met over 120 students and teachers, we have listened to their needs, we have tried to help as best as we could. There is a lot of passion in this domain, rather unpopular at this time, and also the teachers’ effort and fatigue in the process of keeping up with new challenges arising within the agricultural education sector”, says Anna Şargov, the project’s manager.

At the end of 2016 we have launched a grant call exclusively for these eight high schools, and we have offered funding for replicating the study visit model. These visits took place in the areas where each school is located.

We wished for the model to be replicable and to help the students and teachers involved so that during the following years they can organize such events on their own. In this project we have developed a methodology for organizing the visits and a manual containing every visit and its schedule (including a short info guide for students).

The first stage of the program took place between 2015 and 2017, and the second phase will happen from 2018 to 2021, when six new high schools will be enlisted.



Project:

Supporting the Local Action Groups in Building and Implementing their Local Development Strategies

Budget:

222.128,41 lei

Funding:

Human Capital Development Program
2014-2020

Our status:

Partner

Applicant:

Alba Iulia City Hall

Office:

Cluj-Napoca

Parteneri:

Alba Iulia City Hall, SC
Xerom Service SRL

Throughout 2017 our organization has constantly invested time and effort in supporting the implementation of the LEADER program. We have actively collaborated with many Local Action Groups (LAG), supporting them in the process of applying local development strategies, grant applications and training or consultancy services. Moreover, we have contributed into replicating the concept in the urban areas.

The Cluj-Napoca branch of our organization was involved in the writing of two such urban local development strategies, for the cities of Alba Iulia (Alba county) and Gherla (Cluj county). As far as Alba Iulia is concerned, this involvement was manifested by participating as project partners. In the case of Gherla, we offered consultancy services. We have thus implemented, as partners, the project "Alba Iulia - a Responsible Local Community".

We have contributed in developing the strategy, the formal creation of the LAG and training of the GAL's

employees. The Alba Iulia municipality was the applicant of this project, while the other partner involved was Xerom Service SRL, which came from the business sector.

The project was funded through the Human Capital Operational Program (POCU), the 5th Priority Axis - Local development placed under community's responsibility.

The project's objective was to mobilize and involve local organizations and underprivileged communities from Alba Iulia to find solutions to the problems they face, through a cross-sector approach.

Throughout the project we were involved in the foundation of the LAG called "Alba Iulia Incluziva" which is responsible with organizing public consultations and developing the strategy. Moreover, a list of interventions which would contribute to applying for grants worth over 8.000.000 euros was developed.

Local Action Groups we worked with in 2017

Sălaj County

4 GAL Valea Crasnei și Barcăului

Satu Mare County

1 GAL Sud-Vest Satu Mare

2 GAL Zona Sătmarului

3 GAL Microregiunea Someș-Codru

Cluj County

5 GAL Someș-Nadăș

6 GAL Câmpia Transilvaniei

7 GAL Someș Transilvan

City of Gherla

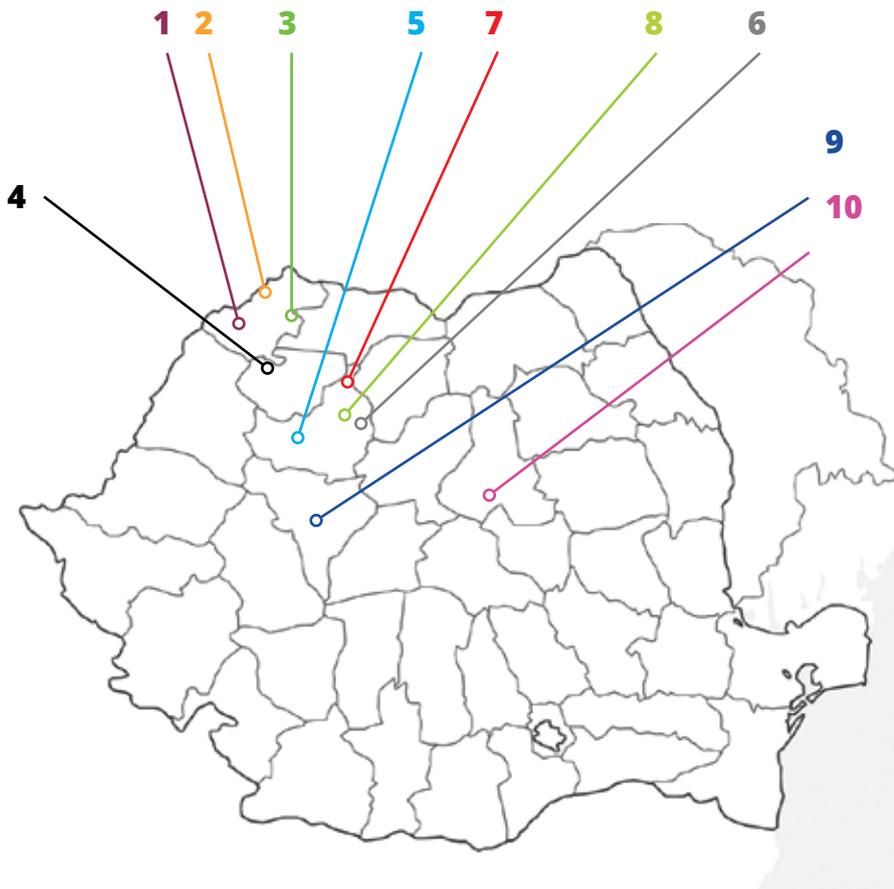
8 GAL Plaiuri Someșene

City of Alba Iulia

9 GAL Alba Iulia Incluzivă

Harghita County

10 GAL Homorod-Küküllő Egyesület





Social Economy and Entrepreneurship

By promoting social economy and entrepreneurship in Romania we create sustainable initiatives, able to face the challenges of the open market.

Project:

Starting date:

September 1, 2014

Ending date: August 31 2017**Budget:** 40.509 EUR**Funding:**

Erasmus +

Our status:

Partner

Applicant: CEFAL Emiglia Romagna Societa Cooperativa**Office:** Cluj-Napoca**Partners:**

CEFAL Emiglia Romagna Societa Cooperativa, SCF - Scuola Centrale Formazione, AZRRI - Agency for Rural Development of Istrian Region, Region of Istria, Casa Artusi, CEC - Comite Europeen de Coordination, AFMR ETCHARRY - Association pour Formation en Milieu Rural, DOT - Dolnośląska Organizacja Turystyczna, Lunca Someşului Mic Agricultural Cooperative

CAVA - Competences for micro-processing agricultural products



This project had an unexpected success in Romania, given the public interest into becoming specialized in the food processing sector.

he goal of the CAVA project is to capitalize traditional products and local food culture as an entrepreneurial opportunity.

Moreover, we aim to increase employment by promoting local food entrepreneurship and food processing as a certification. Through CAVA we have worked on improving their creativity, initiative and entrepreneurial skills of people interested training themselves in the food industry.

Moreover, the participants have also acquired technical and professional skills which are very useful when launching their own enterprise or collaborating with the HORECA sector.

The project has answered to the need of encouraging exchange of knowledge, innovation, resources and practices between participants, trainers and the market. We have increased the employability level through developing the entrepreneurial spirit and skills among youth and adults from rural and peri-urban areas.

Last but not least, we have developed a series of manuals for increasing entrepreneurial and professional skills in food processing and we have organized exchanges between the partners. There was also a pilot course called "Food and fruit processing" which can be replicated.

The project is implemented within a partnership between public and private organizations from Belgium, Croatia, France, Italy, Poland and Romania.



Civil Society Empowerment

We support the transfer of good practices transfer and partnerships in the civil society environment. Our initiatives enforce active citizenship and youth involvement in the community.

Project:

ONGFest Civic Break - Cluj-Napoca

Starting date:

July 1, 2017

Ending date:

July 1, 2017

Budget:

Private sponsorship

Funding:

FDSC, Kaufland

Our status:

Partner

Applicant:

Foundation for the
Development of Civil
Society (FDSC)

Office:

Cluj-Napoca



A number of 45 non-profit organizations have participated on the 1st of July at ONGFest Civic Break in Cluj-Napoca. The event took place in the center of the city, on the medieval Potaissa Street. The participants have organized over 50 activities, debates, demonstrations, concerts and workshops which have promoted civic involvement, volunteering and social responsibility. New friendships were tied, new projects ideas and collaborations. The 1600 people attending the event had the opportunity to find out more about what NGOs do and to better understand this sector.

We have thus celebrated the 8th edition of the largest open air event dedicated to civil society in Romania - ONG Fest - The National Non-Governmental Organization's Festival. Cluj was the festival's third and final stop, after Bucharest and Iași. ONGFest 2017 was organized

by the Foundation for Developing Civil Society (FDSC) together with ourselves, as local partners. The initiative was supported by the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program and by its sponsor, Kaufland Romania.

"There are a lot of strong NGOs in Cluj. There are also a lot of small organizations doing extraordinary things. Moreover, during the past years, civil society has developed strongly. We need events to bring all these people and their energy together. We also need events to bring the NGOs before the public", said Adrian Popa, the coordinator of this initiative, on behalf of Civitas Foundation.

ONGFest in figures:

- 45 exhibitors
- over 30 interactive activities
- 5 debates
- movie screening
- 2 theater plays
- 2 concerts

Project:

Starting date:

January 9, 2015

Ending date:

January 8, 2017

Budget:

25.724 EUR

Funding:

European Commission
Erasmus+ Programme

Our status:

Partner

Applicant

DOOR - Croatia

Office:

Cluj-Napoca

Partners:

DOOR – Society For Sustainable Development Design (Croatia), ASUD (Italy), Ce.S.F.Or. (Italy), EUROANORAT (Germany), Bulgarian Development Agency (Bulgaria)

Compass - COMPetences for Agencies for Sustainable Site conversion



The project brought together partners from four countries (Italy, Germany, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania). Each had distinct expertise regarding community development topics.

We aimed to train 50 people in the field of sustainable conversion of unused public spaces. Our goal was to build and implement a training path to create and establish a new professional curriculum: sustainable conversion consultant.

An important aspect of this project was cooperating with the public administration, teachers, professors and professionals in order to unify our efforts in identifying long-lasting solutions for activating vacant places in cities from the participant European Countries.

The five partners have elaborated a multidisciplinary online course and curriculum that targets the training of sustainable conversion experts.

We have managed to create four video documentaries about good practices and case studies from each partner country on subjects such as social sustainability, sustainable architecture and energy savings, urban planning and participatory planning, territory conversion techniques.

The case studies on which we have worked in Cluj were Fabrica de Pensule (Paintbrush Factory), La terenuri - Spațiu comun din Mănăștur (La terenuri - Mănăștur commonplace) and Gara Mică (Little Train station) - all of them unoccupied and not in use, and subject to various development projects for the benefit of the community.

"I have met passionate people, involved university professors, tireless activists all working together to find solutions for places with huge urban potential. We have invested a lot of effort, but without coagulating all of the interested parties it is difficult to find and implement valid solutions. An example in this matter is Gara Mică, a public space which played the role of an art gallery for a while, but which was later transformed into a supermarket. There is need for greater efforts and actual involvement of the public administration in order to sustainably transform these places", says Anna Șargov, the project coordinator in Cluj.

Project:

Citizen Advice Office in Odorheiu Secuiesc

Starting date:

2002

(permanent project)

Funding:

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society, Odorheiu Secuiesc City Council

Our status:

Applicant

Office:

Odorheiu Secuiesc

Partners:

Odorheiu Secuiesc City Hall

The Citizen Advice Office in Odorheiu Secuiesc celebrates 15 years from its foundation. During this time it functioned as a support office for citizens in identifying solutions to the problems they face when dealing with public administration issues.

Our investment into a quality service, where problems are treated with empathy and professionalism turned out to be a very useful thing, even from the beginning. It is why we decided to continue this activity. This office offers free information and counseling regarding citizens' rights and obligations. Informing and counseling services are confidential, free of charge, impartial and independent.

We became aware that many times people start dealing with bureaucratic issues without being fully aware of his or her rights and obligations. Most often when they search for solutions after the situation got aggravated.

The Citizen Advice Office has an important role in the community not only because it offers information and counseling to citizens, but also due to its involvement in various social projects which were implemented in the region, collaborating with many organizations, institutions and applying its long-term acquired experience.





Rural Economic Development

By offering support to local initiatives we help rural communities. Our purpose is to make the members of these communities aware of their resources and able to use them responsibly

Project:

Cooperation Between Beekeepers and Medicinal Plant Producers for Creating the “Tea Box”

Starting date:

October 25, 2017

Ending date:

October 25, 2018

Budget:

75.708 EUR

Funding:

National Rural Development Program

Our status:

Applicant

Office:

Cluj-Napoca

Partners:

Miere de Campie Agricultural Cooperative, PFA Stoian Vasile

The project proposes a business model that brings together beekeepers and medicinal plants producers. The central product of our endeavor is the creation of the “Tea Box” brand, as a result of collaboration between the two. More explicitly, the collaboration is between Miere de Câmpie Agricultural Cooperative and an individual medicinal and aromatic plants producer. We aim to start home deliveries of the Tea Box.

The pack will contain medicinal plants for tea and also honey made from the same area. This way we encourage economic development of the places where the plants and honey are processed and collected. We also encourage the consumption of local products.

Moreover, this combination of honey and medicinal plants represents a package of healthy foods, created based on the principles of the “short chain” both from the perspective of the producer-consumer relationship, and the distance this food travels to reach the consumer.

This way, between the producer and the consumer there will be one intermediary at most, while



the products come from no farther than a 75 kilometers radius from the consumer.

By creating the Tea Box, our first goal is to develop the concept. Afterwards we will develop the brand and promote the product, sell it locally and try national or foreign markets.

Project:

Eco-Motive

Starting date:

January 9, 2014

Ending date:

January 8, 2017

Budget:

55.882 EUR

Funding:

European Union, through the Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus+ KA2Strategic (Good practices in cooperation and innovation)

Our status:

Partner

Applicant:

"Szent Istvan" University, Hungary

Office:

Odorheiu Secuiesc

Partners:

Civitas Foundation Regional Office in Odorheiu Secuiesc, Szent Istvan University in Ungaria, GAK Nonprofit Közhasznú Kft.(Hu), Ormánság Foundation, Tizsasas City Hall, Centre Capacitació Agrária Manresa din Catalonia, Ruskin Mill Trust from Great Britain



We have organized training programs for eco-agriculture trainers, based on the needs and mindset of people living in the rural areas and belonging to disadvantaged groups.

Therefore, all of the educational curricula and didactic materials were meant to ease the way these people understand and assimilate knowledge in the field of ecological vegetables and fruits production, as well as ecological livestock raising. Moreover, the trainers also acquired skills in dealing and working with underprivileged groups.



As a pilot instrument, we have created in the town of Locodeni an orchard with local varieties of seedlings. This orchard was the classroom where farmers worked in teams and learned ecological agriculture techniques. Among the results we should mention manuals on the subject of ecological agriculture people from rural communities.

These manuals were very well received and encouraged many people to start practicing this type of agriculture. What we succeeded the most was to reduce the language barrier between specialists and

“Agriculture is a very complex process. Beyond the physical benefits, beyond providing food, it is also a form of therapy that contributes to biodiversity, wellbeing of our habitat and our health. Farmers are the gatekeepers and messengers of this heritage. We have to be grateful”

Pakot Mónica, the Civitas project manager of Eco Motive.

common people. We are proud to say that we managed to greatly contribute to motivating and encouraging farmers.

Moreover, we are grateful for the study visits in the partner countries, which have helped us expand our horizons and learn new things. For instance, our partner in England, who is in charge of reintegrating underprivileged youth into the society, holds two year classes on Personal Development through Agriculture - we find this an extraordinary idea.

Project:

Starting date:

January 7, 2017

Ending date:

January 6, 2019

Budget:

55.167 USD (Civitas budget)

Funding:

Romanian-American
Foundation

Our status:

Applicant

Office:

Cluj-Napoca

Partners:

Center for Economic
Education and
Development in Romania
Foundation (CEED),
Romanian Center for
European Policies (CRPE),
Center for Community
Mediation and Security
(CMSC), Foundation for
the Development of Civil
Society (FDSC)

Network of facilitators for developing associative structures - COOP NET



We aim to support the foundation of 25 agricultural cooperatives and to train 80 people into how to found a cooperative and how to manage one.

Coop Net is a network that supports association and collaboration between farmers in Romania. It does this by training people who are interested in creating associative structures within their Local Action Group (GAL) where they apply for grants.

Through our initiative we will train 80 people to create sustainable structures in the benefit of local farmers and to help small producer by granting them access to the market. Within the first year of our project we have already reached 57 members in Coop Net.

The network members can be GAL employees, applicants to various agricultural grants but also people who already benefit from grants. The project also targets people who already manage cooperatives which were created through GAL funding.

Based on a network approach, the project supports small farmers by involving consultants in a set of activities where they learn details on how to implement projects regarding associative structures (trainings, consultancy services, monitoring visits of associations and cooperatives, bureaucracy, information etc). We will grant 60 vouchers and support the network members in founding 25 cooperatives.

The purpose of Coop Net is to contribute in responsible and sustainable spending of the grants available through the LEADER and PNDR (Measure 4 and Measure 16).

Thus, we train specialists whom will have the expertise to create and manage associations and cooperative in a financially sustainable way and in the benefit of the community.

Project:

Fruits Festival 2017 (9th edition)

Starting date:

June 1, 2017

Ending date:

September 30, 2017

Budget:

33.000 RON

Funding:

Odorheiu Secuiesc City Council, Harghita County Council, Bethlen Gábor Alapkezelő Zrt. (HU)

Office:

Odorheiu Secuiesc

Partners:

Székelygyümölcs Association - the Association of Fruits Producers in Odorhei, GAL Homorod- Kukullo LEADER Egyesület, Udvarhely Dance Band



Approximately 7000 people have visited the three-day long Fruits Festival, in Odorheiu Secuiesc. The event was organized for the 9th year in a row by the Civitas Foundation regional office in Odorheiu.

The event is already a tradition in the area. Its goal is to support local fruits producer communities. 14 such communities have participated this year. The visitors could learn more about, and try over 300 types of food made from local fruits (juices, jam, cakes etc.)

The Fruit Festival is the place to find healthy and quality fruits. Here, people from the surrounding villages can show and sell products made by their own recipes, throughout the year.

During the 3-day festival the visitors could taste jams, syrups, natural juices, dried fruit and all sorts of cakes. Besides the cultural activities which took place during Erdélyi Táncház Fesztivál, many other events for all ages took place. Children

had special playgrounds where to spend their time. Craftsmen held workshops teaching people all sorts of work. There was also a info-stand on local herbs and medicinal plants, where one could find information on various local plants.

There was also a barter-tent where visitors could acquire various objects by exchanging the ones they owned. There were lotteries, contests and competitions and plenty of consistent awards given.

Moreover, we have also organized a conference on the topic of "Maintaining traditions and values of the Carpathian Basin by collaboration". During this conference we have presented initiatives that underline the importance of responsibly and sustainably using natural resources, this generating sustainable economic development.

"As far as I am concerned, the Fruit Festival means teamwork. Me, the colleagues, volunteers, sponsors, funders, partners and community members. It is a true pleasure to see that everyone who gets involved is dedicated and that many of them have been supporting us for many years. It is a «clear water spring» that can and must serve our community. I wish that during the next years we will have such a... fruitful experience as well", said the coordinator of the project, Bartha-Pál Csaba.

Project:

Starting date:

May 1, 2015

Ending date:

October 31, 2017

Budget:

253.917 CHF

Funding:

Swiss-Romanian
Cooperation Program

Our status:

Applicant

Office:

Odorheiu Secuiesc

Partners:

LIA Foundation (Locodeni, Harghita), Civitas Foundation for Civil Society - Cluj-Napoca, Swiss Association for Biodynamic Agriculture.

Social Integration of Underprivileged People from Rural Areas through Sustainable Collection and Processing of Medical Plants



Through this initiative we have helped local communities to rediscover their valuable, yet almost forgotten resource: medicinal and aromatic plants.

Our main goal was to help social integration of underprivileged people from rural areas by offering them knowledge regarding medicinal plants gathering and processing. We also aimed to consolidate partnerships between Romanian and Swiss NGOs.

The project's strong point is the local knowledge "multipliers". These are people who pass forward

their knowledge to the rest of the community. In order to support them we have founded the Transylvania Herbs Garden Association which will continue many of the project's activities.

We have contributed to developing a feeling of belonging to the community and the integration of socially excluded individuals, by creating volunteering teams. The members of these teams have exchanged knowledge about how to collect and process plants in a responsible way. "This project is like an arch over time. We have learned how to rediscover things known by our elders, but



which were since forgotten. These knowledge helps us maintain our health and improve the quality of our life”, says Bákai Magdolna, the project coordinator.

First we have organized a set of meetings and organized 181 people in 10 teams of volunteers in the regions of Odorhei (7) and Cluj (3).

No less than 60 volunteers were appointed with researching and documenting plant species and we managed to build a list of 48 species which was published online on our project website in three languages

(Romanian, Hungarian and English). We have founded two centers for organizing classes on medicinal plants processing in Locodeni (Harghita county) and in Sic (Cluj county).

In Locodeni we have also created a medicinal plant garden which has two employees (people with light disabilities).

The garden was set with the help of 45 volunteers and it is open to visitors. Hundreds of people visit it and participate to workshops for children, youth and adults.

Project:

Starting date:

January 2017

Ending date:

February 2020

Budget:

Phase 1 budget: 96,020 USD

Civitas food-hubs budget
(Phase 2): 226.740 USD for each
Civitas food-hub

Budget coordonare program
(Faza 2): 48.600 USD

Funding:

Romanian-American
Foundation

Our status

Applicant, Program coordinator

Office:

Cluj-Napoca (Phase 1, Phase 2),
Odorheiu Secuiesc (Phase 2)

Partners:

Open Fields Foundation, Center
for Community Mediation and
Security (CMSC), World Vision
Romania

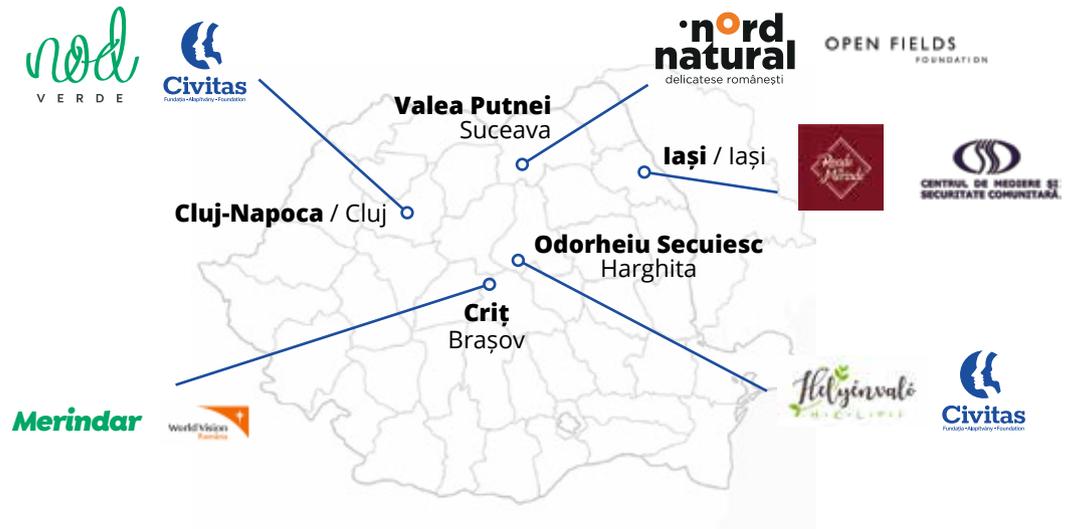
FOOD HUB - Developing an integrator centre model for local products

Launched in 2017, the “Food Hub” program was about to become one of the most challenging initiatives for supporting Romanian local producers.

The idea for the program appeared after a study visit in the USA, which took place in 2014. The Civitas team visited similar food hub organizations and later on, together with our partners, we have adapted the concept to the reality in our country. The application form was submitted in 2017 and proposes two distinct phases coordinated by Civitas. During the first phase we have selected ten non-profit organizations capable of conceiving and implement a business plan for starting food-hub entities in their regions. These organizations have received grants worth 8.000 dollars for making the business plans and the required documentation. During the second phase, out of the ten NGOs, five were funded with grants worth approximately 220.000 USD in

order to start the food-hubs. The business models had to hold to a set of principles imposed through the program, but also to be adapted to local particularities. Therefore, two food-hubs were started by the Civitas Foundation, one by the Cluj-Napoca branch (Nod Verde), the other by the Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office (Cumsecade / Helyénvaló). The third food-hub was started by the Open Fields Foundation in Valea Putnei (Nord Natural), the fourth by the Center for Community Mediation and Security in Iași (Roade și Merinde) and the fifth by World Vision Romania in Criș (Merindar). During the entire period of the program, starting 2017 and up until 2021, the Civitas Foundation has assumed the role of administrator to the grants received from the funder (the Romanian-American Foundation), and also to monitor the way the five initiatives work in order to document the process and facilitate the collaboration between the organizations involved.

The map containing all the foodhubs and partner organisations acestora)



Services offered by the Civitas food-hubs

The services and resources we offer to local producers who collaborate with the food-hubs allow them to face market challenges both from a qualitative perspective (by abiding to quality norms imposed by us) and also from a quantitative perspective (by efficiently aggregating similar product types). We offer the following services to local farmers:

I. Operational (commercial component): collecting the products, aggregation, distribution, promotion, packaging, brokering (direct market connection).

II. Support (educational component): management consultancy, technical consultancy, professional training, educative and awareness campaigns.

Nod verde

The Cluj-Napoca food-hub concept was built for a cosmopolitan market, one which is specific to a large city, undefined by geography, but by a set of common consumer values (local food, healthy food, supporting the local farmers). The established area for products collection extends on a 150 kilometers radius. We have assumed to involve at least 60 local producers in our enterprise, to support them and to build relationships based on respect and fairness between them and their clients. During the first year the team will focus on developing a distribution network directly to citizens from Cluj-Napoca. Starting from 2019 we will further develop commercial partnerships with restaurants, catering companies and hotels.

Cumsecade / Helyénvaló

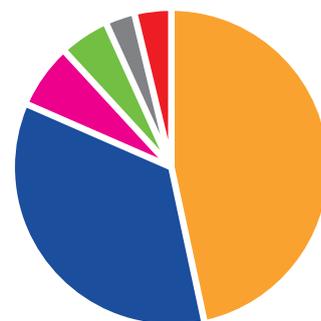
The initiative aims to encourage local, healthy produce consumption and supporting at least 60 producers from Odorheiu Secuiesc area by establishing a store and a collection and aggregation center. The concept has a large community component. The food-hub is strongly connected to the network of producers involved in the Fruits Festival and built throughout the past nine years.

The Civitas Foundation has started the „Helyenvalo” company. We have established a partnership with the Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality in order to open a local products center and a store in the center of the city, where we will run most of our activity. The store furnishing started at the end of 2017.

Financial Report

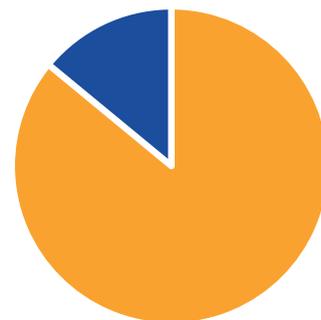
Income 3,832,858 lei

Grants from public sources	1,789,199 lei	47%
Grants from private sources	1,343,022 lei	35%
Donations, sponsorships from individuals and companies	237,683 lei	6%
Dividends	204,368 lei	5%
Incomes from economic activities	105,003 lei	3%
Other incomes	153,583 lei	4%



Expenses 3,430,185 lei

Expenses with projects in progress	2,940,846 lei	86%
Administrative expenses	489,339 lei	14%



Net result 402,673 lei

Organizations mentored by Civitas

Civitas Consulting



SC Civitas Consulting SRL was established in 2008 by the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society. The company's earnings are directed towards the foundation, supporting its local development and civil society projects.

The Civitas Consulting team remained the same as in 2016, which triggered stability and a favorable context as regarding our organizations development.

As far as our grant applications are concerned, we have managed to accomplish 29 of them, the highest number accomplished during the past 10 years. A third of these projects was for private clients, which confirms our team's growing expertise on the business sector funding opportunities.

Also, in 2017 we have consolidated our existent partnerships with the public sector regarding FEADR funding. The team has worked on large scale projects concerning agricultural products processing, a new experience which offered a lot of satisfaction.

Our service portfolio was well represented on consultancy services regarding public acquisitions, a field which will gain more ground in our overall activity.

Our Team

The Board



KOLUMBÁN Gábor
Board president



SMARANDA Enache
Board member



ECKSTEIN KOVÁCS Péter
Board member



BAKK Miklós
Board member



HAJDÓ Csaba
Board member



ORBÁN Árpád
Board member

Cluj-Napoca Team



BALOGH Márton
Regional Director



KISS Emese
Financial Director



Carmen CIOBANU
Program Director



Valentin FILIP
Program Director



Andreea SUCIU
Program Director



Cristina BADEA
Economist



Andreea OLTEAN
Economist



HAJOS Csilla
Economist



GABOS Izabella
Administrative Secretary



Anna ŞARGOV
Project Coordinator

Cluj-Napoca



Alina AUGUSTIN
Project Coordinator



Claudiu JACOTĂ
Project Assistant



Adrian M. POPA
Project Coordinator



Alina ZAMFIR
Project Coordinator



Antoneta STATE
Project Coordinator



Gabriela DEMIAN
Project Assistant



Attila HUNYADI
Project Assistant



Gheorghita TODICA
Target Group Expert



LASZLO Edit
Project Assistant



Ágnes Evelin BALÁZS
Project Assistant

Odorheiu Secuiesc Team



DÉNES Lajos-Géza
Financial and Executive
Director



BÁLINT Magdolna
Counselor



BARTHA-PÁL Csaba
Project Manager



KIS Zoltán
Program Director



BÁKAI Magdolna
Project Manager



MENYHART Sarolta
Project Assistant



MOLNOS Zsuzsanna
Project Assistant



SZOTYORI Anna-Mária
Project Manager



BUCUR Bernadett
Project Assistant



PAKOT Mónika
Program Director



VÁGÁSI Katalin
Financial officer



KULCSÁR Orsolya
Project Manager

Funders and partners

Our projects were funded by



PROGRAMUL OPERAȚIONAL
CAPITAL UMAN
(POCU)



PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI
ODORHEIUL SECUIESC



CONSILIUL JUDEȚEAN
HARGHITA



BETHLEN GÁBOR
Alap

National partners

Center for a Sustainable Society Association
LEADER Egyesület Association
Székelygyümölcs Association - Wild Fruit Processing Association in Odorheiu Secuiesc
Center for Community Mediation and Security
Center for Economic Education and Development (CEED)
Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE)
Center for Public Policies (CENPO)
Cornești Local Administration
Geaca Local Administration
Cluj County Council
"Lunca Someșului Mic" Agricultural Cooperative
"Miere de Campie" Agricultural Cooperative
Diakonia Christian Foundation
Lokodi Ifjusági Alapítvány (LIA) Foundation in Harghita
Foundation for Civil Society Development (FDSC)
GAL Homorod-Kukullo LEADER Egyesület

GAL Somes Transilvan
GAL Campia Transilvaniei
GAL Somes Nadas
GAL Sud - Vest Satu Mare
GAL Zona Satmarului
GAL Microregiunea Somes Codru
GAL Valea Crasnei si Barcaului
Junior Achievement România (JAR)
Alba Iulia City Hall
Cluj-Napoca City Hall
Odorheiu Secuiesc City Hall
Open Fields Foundation
PFA Stoian Vasile
SC Xerom Service SRL
Structural Consulting Group
Geaca Middle School
"Udvarhelyi Néptáncműhely" Dance Band (Odorheiu Secuiesc)
World Vision Romania (WVR)

International partners

Agency for Rural Development of Istrian Region (AZRRI) (Croatia)
Asociația pentru Agricultură Biodinamică (Switzerland).
Association pour Formation en Milieu Rural (AFMR ETCHARRY) (France)
ASUD (Italy)
Bulgarian Development Agency (Bulgaria)
Casa Artusi (Italy)
Ce.S.F.Or. (Italy)
CEFAL Emilia Romagna Società Cooperativa (Italy)
Centre Capacitació Agrària Manresa (Spain)

Comite Europeen de Coordination (CEC)
Dolnośląska Organizacja Turystyczna (DOT) (Poland)
EUROPANORAT (Germany)
Ormánság Foundation (Hungary)
Primăria Tizsasas (Hungary)
Region of Istria (Croatia)
Ruskin Mill Trust (Great Britain)
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Universitatea Szent Istvan (Hungary)
GAK Nonprofit Közhasznú Kft (Hungary)

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Civitas

Fundația - Alapítvány - Foundation

Cluj-Napoca Office

77 Eremia Grigorescu Street
400304 Cluj-Napoca,
Cluj county, Romania

tel. +40-264-590.554
tel./fax +40-264-590.555
office@civitas.ro

Odorheiu Secuiesc Office

Odorheiu Secuiesc office
29 Solymossy street
535600 Odorheiu Secuiesc,
Harghita county, Romania

tel./fax +40-266-218.481
office.udv@civitas.ro