

Reinvention

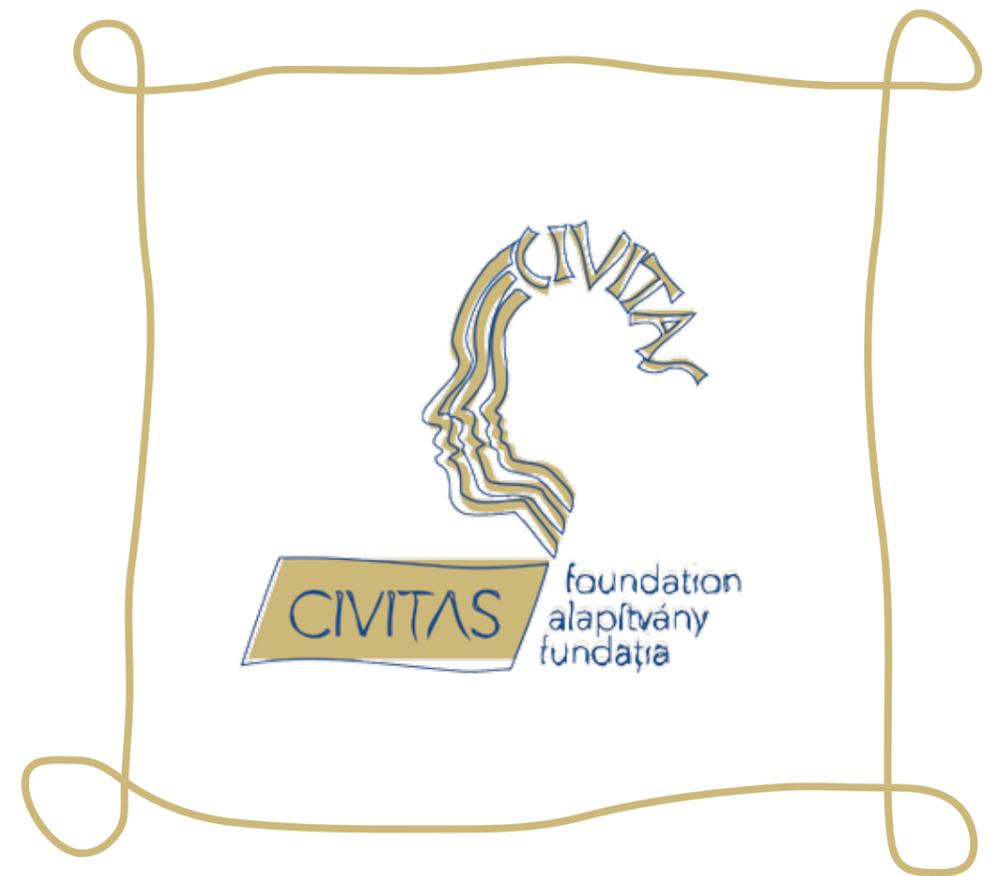


CIVITAS

foundation  
alapítvány  
fundacja

ANNUAL REPORT  
2016





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Dear readers,

**THE WORLD IS CHANGING!**

And I have to add that, of course, we also have to change continuously!

The change in the CIVITAS Foundation approach means that we are rebuilding our organizations step by step, as is the case of every living organism. We maintain the values and the mission of our organisation in order to maintain our identity during this change.

Therefore, we have implemented projects that were based on the experience we have gained in the services provided to the community over the course of almost 25 years, and we managed to continue the naturalization of innovation on social level. We have proposed new solutions for our target groups in order to serve Life.

We urged our partners, we trained them, and we took part in the reorganization of communities, so as to prepare them to face the challenges of today's world. The innovations we proposed have given a new meaning to their work, helping and teaching them to follow their path.

Instead of money, to build relations based on reciprocity by using the Time Bank. To incorporate wild medicinal plants, or plants in their garden, in their lifestyle and use them as an aid to prevent diseases and to monitor health. We took part in the preservation of traditional vegetable seeds, an increasingly popular collaboration service. We supported vegetable growers and beekeepers to make quality marketable products and in quantities that can be offered on the market, through cooperation.

We provided resources and professionals to restore the frescoes of the church monument, part of the world heritage. We activated the church in Dârjiu on the fortified churches touristic map. We helped find new functions for the old buildings. We invested in the continuing operation of social enterprises, in order to make them sustainable after the project financing will end.

This year again we organized the Fruit Festival, and the savoury world of fruits was expanded with the aromatic supply of medicinal plants and spices. Through international cooperation we developed a manual for ecological thinking and practice oriented education system. Just so you get a feel of a few of our projects! Just to create the mood to read our annual report.

Above all, we relied on collaboration. The principles of our projects, our guidelines, were a greater commitment and, more significantly, a more dignified life for the people. Our foundation has taken a major step into developing the necessary infrastructure for its activities. We managed to acquire a new headquarters in Cluj-Napoca, and we started to transform it according to its new purpose. Through collaboration with the partners in our cooperatives we made demonstrative gardens, processing and sales centres.

We hired a successful business consultant for organizational development in order to be more efficient, better organized and performance oriented. The NGO model with an entrepreneurial approach was born, and putting it into practice will be an important task in 2017.

I hope we will have successfully completed the reconstruction in one year's time and I will report the rebirth of the organization in its twenty-fifth year of existence.

**KOLUMBÁN GÁBOR**  
PRESIDENT



# CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society

## OUR VISION

Over the last 24 years we have been changing the daily lives of people in the local community by engaging them in innovative, sustainable and socially impacting programs.

We believe in the force and civic involvement of the community. We bring citizens and authorities together to transform initiatives into projects, plans into reality and development opportunities in prosperity.

## OUR MISSION

To increase the development capacities of the communities so as to generate successful welfare models.

## THE CIVITAS FAMILY IS

- CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society
  - Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office
- CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society
  - Cluj-Napoca regional office
- Civitas Consulting

## OUR VALUES

**TRUST AND CONSTANCY:** We believe in what we do and we are trustworthy. We build strong relations with our partners and beneficiaries, based on commitment and constancy.

**PROFESSIONALISM AND THE DESIRE TO OVERCOME OURSELVES:** the impact our projects have on the community is guaranteed by the professionalism of the people we work with and the permanent desire to learn more, to be more creative and to effectively transform ideas, dreams and aspirations into reality.

**COMMITMENT AND VOCATION:** The people in Civitas are professionals who believe in what they do: the vocation, commitment and trust that our work matters are values we care very much about.

**INTEGRITY AND SUCCESS:** We respect our values and we respect those who share them, however, we only choose as partners those who also put them into practice.

**INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY:** Each project is different because people are different; we use our experience to make sure that our programs are efficient. We believe that innovation and creativity are absolutely necessary to develop successful projects. This is the only way to gain the trust of those for whom and with whom we work.

**PARTNERSHIP AND ASSOCIATIVITY:** our projects' success is due to the partnerships we have, the teamwork, and the association between resources and knowledge to bring added value to the communities that need them.

## THE FOUNDATION'S STRUCTURE AND AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The organization structure includes two regional offices, located in Romania's North West respectively Centre Development Regions, in Cluj-Napoca and Odorheiu Secuiesc.

The CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society runs activities mainly in Transylvania; however it also implements projects at national or international level.

# The Civitas Foundation Board:



**KOLUMBÁN GÁBOR**  
PRESIDENT



**HAJDÓ CSABA**  
MEMBER



**ENACHE SMARANDA**  
MEMBER

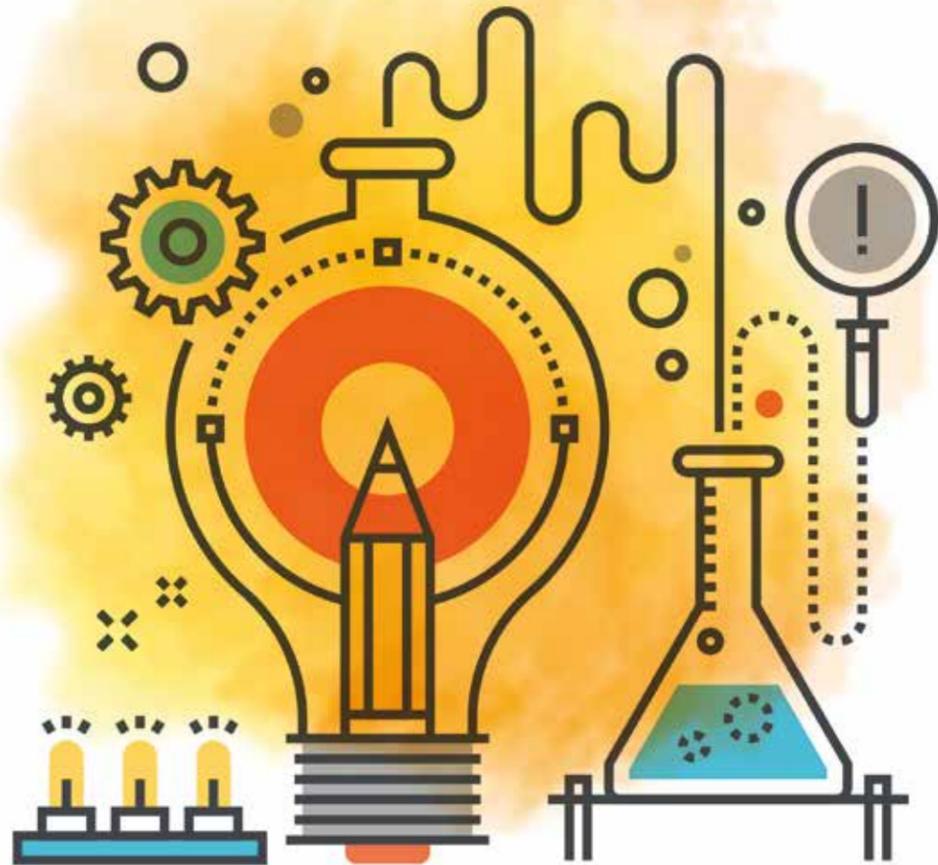


**BAKK MIKLÓS**  
MEMBER



**ECKSTEIN KOVÁCS PÉTER**  
MEMBER

## Programs and projects



The programs and projects developed within our Foundation are in the field of **regional and local development** according to the principles identified in the strategic planning documents within our organization.

Our sub-fields of activity are as follows:

**Rural development;**  
**Social economy development;**  
**Civil society development;**  
**Human resources development;**  
**Administrative capacity development.**

## Rural development



Today, the Romanian rural area is facing an upward trend in programs developed to support the communities. However, when we talk about agricultural productivity, there is still a lot of work to be done so as to be in the same line with the other European countries.

Through our projects we aim to help communities in rural areas by analysing and catalysing their touristic and agricultural potential. Our goal is to help local people become aware of the area's specific resources, to conserve and develop them in a sustainable manner.

We support local initiatives, and through our projects we aim to ensure continuous and sustainable development.

We believe in the values of the Romanian village, in preserving traditions, as they constitute our identity.

*„Eternity was born in the village” (Lucian Blaga)*



## THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE PLAIN HONEY

**STATUS:** In progress

**PROJECT:** The Development of the Agricultural Cooperative „Plain Honey”

**FUNDER:** The Romanian-American Foundation

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Cluj-Napoca regional office

**PARTNERS:** Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, the Centre for Mediation and Community Security, CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society, Pact Foundation, Romanian Center for European Policies

**PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION:** 2014-2017

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** 161,880 USD

Through this project we wanted to bring together beekeepers from Transylvania in order to organize them in a cooperative type associative structure. The greatest goal of the project is to facilitate the access of the products on the market by standardizing them, developing branding elements and meeting the requirements of the current market context.

The purpose of the project is to create, through this cooperative, a regional centre to represent as many beekeepers as possible and to facilitate their access to resources for: business development, product quality improvement, increasing the number of hives and attracting new members.

We found selling channels so as to give co-operators a boost, so that they get more involved in production, in buying new hives. Overall, we have confirmed that it is worth it to get involved, that the cooperative purpose and objectives are starting to be reached and visible.



*„My best memory is from the end of August, when, together with the other co-operators we poured concrete on the terrace. It was a really cool activity, which contributed significantly to the team cohesion. Another memorable moment was the Sic fair. We all gathered around the camp fire made by the Sic Town Hall representatives.*

*The most important lesson I learned is that a harmonious growth of the cooperative can be attained only through communication, continuous training and an attempt to overcome limits. An important role in defining identity is played by the team spirit and understanding the common goal.”*

**Manager Agricultural cooperative plain honey - Agricultural Manager „Plain Honey” Cooperative**

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE LUNCA SOMEȘULUI MIC

**STATUS:** Finalised

**PROJECT:** Development of the Agricultural Cooperative Lunca Someșului Mic

**FUNDER:** Romanian-American Foundation

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Cluj-Napoca regional office

**PARTNERS:** Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, the Centre for Mediation and Community Security, CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society, Pact Foundation, Romanian Center for European Policies

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** 2012-2016

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** 168,080 USD

The first part of the year means the end of a project with a long history and significant implications: the Development of the Agricultural Cooperative Lunca Someșului Mic. The project implied the maturing of the initiative launched in the autumn of 2012.

Through this project we brought together a big number of farmers in the Vegetable Basin of Lunca Someșului Mic, giving them the chance to access a new market, that of the supermarkets. We believe that by developing this project, we have contributed to increasing cohesion and prosperity in the communities involved, Apahida and Jucu.

In the 3 years of implementing this project our actions aimed at maturing and developing the initiative. Thus, together with the farmers in the cooperative we created a business plan, we identified the locations and the logistic framework in which to implement it. We focused on both the economic component (consolidation and implementation of the business plan) and the community component (the growth of group cohesion and the presence of the cooperative in the community- in different GALs).

The project completion meant the finalization of the branding elements (visual identity and the approach of the public): launching the web site, developing promotional materials (labels, flyers, posters, folders), but it also targeted legal issues. In this sense we took the first steps for a statutory change that involved our exit and the access of new members in the Cooperative.

The results of this project have been visible from the beginning. If in 2013 there was a turnover of 53.000€, in 2016 this figure increased 4 times, reaching a turnover of 210.000€.



*„I have learned that if you do not put heart in what you do, you cannot be happy. This is a simple recipe. Sure, the reverse is that at some point you might be disappointed. Another thing I have learned is that the Universe works for you when you work for others. If you dedicate yourself to others, in terms of time, energy and effort, you happen to be rewarded, without necessarily seeking a reward. By helping others you help yourself.”* **Valentin Filip – Project Manager**

## TRANSYLVANIAN HERB GARDEN

**STATUS:** in progress

**PROJECT:** The social integration of people in rural areas through the sustainable collection and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants

**FUNDER:** Co-funded by the Swiss-Romanian Partnership Fund

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office

**PARTNERS:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Cluj-Napoca regional office, LIA Foundation, Association for Biodynamic Agriculture in Switzerland

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** 01.05.2015 – 31.10.2017

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** 253,917.07 CHF

Through this project, we wish to support the social integration of disadvantaged people in rural areas by informing and educating them with regards to the collection and processing of medicinal plants.

So far, we have worked on developing a network between the community and non-profit organizations, to favour social integration; we have facilitated exchanges of experience and knowledge about sustainable agriculture, focusing on the collection and processing of medicinal plants, and we have supported local economic activities and sustainable development through numerous programs.

The project's greatest challenge was to identify the group of people, producers or collectors of medicinal and aromatic plants, to prepare them in the collection, cultivation and processing of herbs.

Beyond expanding knowledge about the methods of collecting and processing medicinal plants, our goal is to teach local people to develop and utilize herbal products to supplement their incomes.



*„The best memory is from the fair in Bonțida, because of the group connection, the atmosphere created and the fact that we managed to think and build together the most beautiful fair stand. Some of the products we presented to the visitors were flower bouquets, flower boxes, mixes of herbs for lemonade and soups. We also had a mobile distillery with which we made a mint extraction demonstration.”*

**Carmen Ciobanu – Program director at the Cluj regional office**

## UNESCO FORTIFIED CHURCHES IN TRANSYLVANIA- A RECIPE TO „DEFEND” THE CULTURAL PATRIMONY, WITH OPENED „GATES” TO FACILITATE ACCESS.

**STATUS:** finalized

**PROJECT:** UNESCO fortified churches in Transylvania – a recipe to „defend” cultural patrimony, with opened „gates” to facilitate access.

**FUNDER:** PA16/RO12 „Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage” Program – Small grants scheme of the Financial Mechanism SEE 2009-2014, the program operator is the Ministry of Culture – The project management unit.

**PARTNER:** the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society - Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office

**APPLICANT:** the Unitarian parish Dârjiu

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** 01.06.2015 – 30.04.2016

**PROJECT VALUE:** 417,157,72 lei

By developing this project we wanted to create a collaboration network between the 7 fortified churches in Romania listed on the Unesco heritage: Călnic, Prejmer, Viscri, Dârjiu, Saschiz, Biertan, Valea Viilor.

Some of the missions we assumed with this project are as follows: the conservation and restoration of the murals inside and outside the fortified church in Dârjiu, the development and creation of a mural exhibition inside the objective, where we were able to present to the general public the connection between the traditions of Hungarian and Transylvanian Saxon minorities.

All the project activities aimed at developing the touristic potential of these areas. The traditions of the 7 communities around the fortified churches can be now seen in a documentary film we made within this project.

The end of the project took place in the middle of the community, and it was an exciting moment for everyone, the Civitas team and the Dârjiu community.



*„The most important lesson we learned by being involved in this project is that if you have a dream and you can visualize it, you only have to work hard, be perseverant and follow the direction you set. No hardship will seem too big.”* **Kulcsár Orsolya – Project Manager**

## TRADITIONAL SEEDS – THE KEY TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

**STATUS:** finalised

**PROJECT:** Traditional seeds – the key to protect biodiversity

**FUNDER:** The NGO fund in Romania– the Sustainable Development Component

**PARTNERS:** Agrar Media, Eco Ruralis, Norgesvel (Norway), CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Cluj-Napoca regional office

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society - Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** May 2014 – April 2016

**PROJECT VALUE:** 166.922,50 Euro

The overall project objective was to protect agro-biodiversity in Transylvania by creating a cooperation network between small farmers, institutions and public authorities, NGOs and consumers.

In order to reach our objective we structured all activities in 3 stages:

- To save and revitalize traditional seeds through a collection and distribution network. To give a warning signal about the danger of extinction of traditional seeds.
- To increase awareness of the genetic diversity of traditional varieties, as well as of the importance of preserving them through informative and educational programs. We have organized 6 fairs and 7 training programs for farmers in the eco-legumiculture sector.
- To create a network of supporters in Eastern Europe to contribute to the free circulation of traditional seeds in the territory.



Within the project, we facilitated the growth of two experimental gardens, in Apahida and Locodeni. These gardens fully complied with all the principles of organic farming, and the seeds we used were of course traditional ones. The gardens were inaugurated in an Open Door Day event type, and farmers and journalists were among the guests. Nature's diversity was easily noticeable in the gardens: we cultivated over 25 varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, red peppers, paprika, carrots, different bean varieties, pumpkins and many other vegetables. This was also a good occasion to connect and foster long-term partnerships between farmers and consumers.

The project and its objectives were promoted at several seed fairs where we managed to create an informal network of supporters of traditional seeds and organic farming.

Since 2014 we publish each year the Catalogue of Traditional Seeds. We also launched other publications within the projects, such as: The guide to saving seeds, the Guide to cultivating vegetables for children (with illustrations by a young man), Be a seeder! (a guide for replacing pesticides with eco variants).



*„We really wanted to give a warning signal about the danger traditional seeds are facing and to make our contribution to saving and preserving important varieties, as they are part of our identity.”* **Pakot Mónika – Project Manager**

*„By participating in this course you have given me the change to look at my everyday work from a different perspective. You made me understand that what I do requires great responsibility. I am proud to be a farmer and thus contribute to the diversity of traditional vegetable varieties!”* **Farmer, participant at the Open Door Day – Experimental garden Apahida**

**STATUS:** in progress

**PROJECT:** Eco-Motive

**FUNDER:** the European Union through the Lifelong Learning Program, Erasmus + KA2Strategic (Cooperation and Innovation for Good Practices)

**PARTNERS:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society - Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office, GAK Nonprofit Közhasznú Kft.(Hu), Ormánság Foundation, Tiszasas Town Hall, Capacitació Agrària Manresa Centre in Catalonia, Ruskin Mill Trust in Great Britain

**APPLICANT:** „Szent István” University in Hungary

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** July 2016 – August 2017

**PROJECT VALUE:** 55.415 Euro

Within the Eco-Motives project, our intent was to develop training programs for ecological agriculture trainers who could meet the needs and especially the language of disadvantaged people living in rural areas.

These trainings were absolutely necessary in the context of familiarising people in rural areas with organic farming. Within the project, we developed educational curricula and teaching materials to facilitate comprehension and assimilation of information. The subjects we covered were as follows: organic vegetable farming, organic fruit growing, and animal husbandry. We consider that Sensitization and Motivation were the necessary levers to teach trainers how to approach people in disadvantaged groups.

Some of the results we have reached are the development of explanatory textbooks on organic farming for people in rural areas, through which we have been able to increase their interest in organic farming and fruit growing and to reduce the language barrier that we have noted between specialists in the field and people in rural areas. As a pilot project, we grew an orchard, with a nursery in Locodeni where we grew traditional varieties. This was the villagers „classroom”, where, divided into teams, they were initiated in the techniques of organic farming.

We are proud to have made a valuable contribution to motivating and raising awareness among trainers. We are also grateful for the visits in partner countries, who helped us expand our horizons and learn many new things. For example our partner in England, who is in charge of reintegrating disadvantaged people into society, organizes two-year courses in Personal Development through Agriculture, which we find to be an extraordinary idea.



*„Agriculture is a very complex process. Beyond the physical necessity it satisfies and the fact that it favours food sovereignty, it is a form of therapy that contributes not only to biodiversity and nature's health, but also to our health; and farmers are the keepers and messengers of this inheritance. We have to be grateful to them!” – Pakot Mónika – Project Manager*

## CAVA – COMPETENCES FOR ADDED VALUE AGRO-FOOD MICROPRODUCTS – ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

**STATUS:** in progress

**PROJECT:** CAVA – Competences for Added Value Agro-food Microproducts – Entrepreneurial development in rural areas

**FUNDER:** European Commission through the Erasmus + program

**PARTNERS:** CEFAL–Emilia Romagna – Italy, AFMR – ETCHARRY - France, SCF –Italy), Civitas – Romania, CEC- Belgium, DOT –Silezia de Jos, Poland, Casa Artusi – Italy, AZRRI, Agency for Rural Development – Croatia, Agriculture Cooperative Lunca Someşului Mic –Romania, Istria Region – Croatia.

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** 01.09.2014 – 31.08.2017

**PROJECT VALUE:** 449.522 Euro

The CAVA project focuses on tourism, catering and agri-food sectors. The reason behind it is to capitalize traditional products and local gastronomic culture as a method for entrepreneurial development and occupational growth through promotion and qualification in product processing. We anticipate that the project will contribute to develop integrated markets and supply chains for food products in tourism.

The project general objectives are as follows:

- Strengthening the exchange of knowledge, innovation, resources and practices between educational actors and the labour market.
- Contributing to higher employability by developing entrepreneurial capacity and spirit among youth and adults in rural and peri-urban areas.

The project includes training providers (CEFAL–Emilia Romagna – Italy, AFMR – ETCHARRY - France, SCF –Italy), active organizations in the field of social economy (Civitas – Romania, CEC- Belgium), active organizations in the field of tourism promotion and capitalization of local patrimony (DOT –Silezia de Jos, public institution in the field of tourism - Poland, Casa Artusi – Italy), active organizations in the field of territorial development (AZRRI, Agency for Rural Development - Croatia, Agriculture Cooperative Lunca Someşului Mic –Romania) and local authorities (Istria Region – Croatia).

## Developing social economy



Our foundation is one of the social economy promoters in Romania; we have developed successful projects in the field of labour market integration of people in vulnerable groups and we have participated in the development of a new economic segment in our country.

If 2015 was the year of social economy for us, as it was the moment when most social economic structures were developed, 2016 was the ultimate test from the market for the enterprises we created: beyond the social field, they had to prove that they are sustainable businesses, prepared to cope with the challenges of a competitive market.

We are proud we have been able to contribute and to see today that social economy is gaining more ground on the Romanian markets. Today, we all have the opportunity to help improve the life quality of disadvantaged people by buying products created in social enterprises.

These things strengthen our hope and give us energy and courage for new, equally great projects.



## PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANCE – SUPPORTING SOCIAL ECONOMY STRUCTURES

**STATUS:** Finalized

**PROJECT:** Partnership for chance– Supporting social economy structures

**FUNDER:** Harghita County Council through the General directorate for social assistance and child protection

**PARTNERS:** Pro Down Foundation, LIA Foundation, Orban Foundation, Pro Autist Foundation

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** 11.07.2016 – 30.11.2016

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office

**PROJECT VALUE:** 11,650 Lei

There are many associations in Harghita County that focus their work on children in vulnerable groups. Young people are involved in creating different objects designed to help them from an economic point of view, but also to bring them joy and give them confidence in their own strength.

We wrote this project to support these organizations, by facilitating points of sales for their products and by organizing a marketing course, but also to continue the wide awareness campaign launched within the SISES project Integrated Support for Social Economy Structures during the timeframe 2014 - 2015.

We organized a 5 days marketing course. Its purpose was to provide young people with the basic principle of marketing and to teach them how to capitalize on the products they create through marketing techniques. They were 5 intense days, many trainers were involved in the projects and the results were satisfying for everybody.



Within the project we created a partnership with Mercur, a supermarket chain in Harghita. Thus, we set up a special stand in each supermarket, destined to promote and sell products created in social enterprises.

We wanted to sensitize the inhabitants in Odorheiu Secuiesc, Târgu Mureş and Miercurea Ciuc, informing them that by purchasing the products they contribute to supporting these organizations and, implicitly, the young people. In each of the six stores, we provided a tablet, which we used to inform the locals through a presentation video about the importance of supporting small social enterprises.

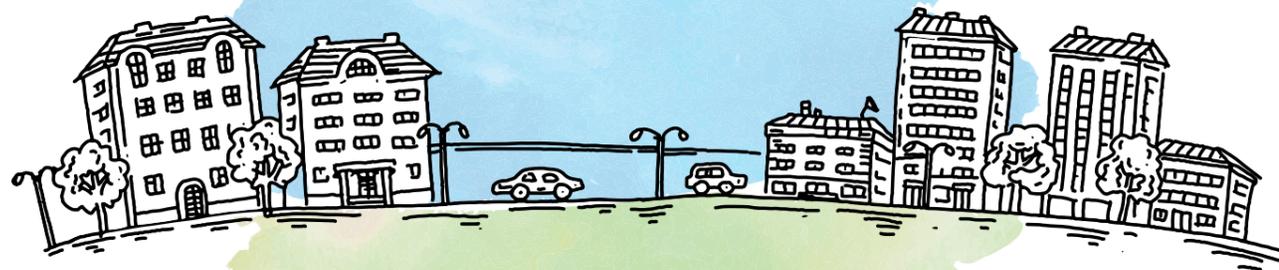
We are grateful to all our partners: the NGOs involved the trainers who held the marketing course and the media partners!

*„For our team this project was a great opportunity to meet strong people who always kept their heads up, regardless of the difficulties they were facing. It was a true life lesson for us and we are happy we had this experience!”*

**Bartha-Pál Csaba – Project Manager**



# Developing the Civil Society



Civil society is a term used to describe a whole system of structures that involves the citizen as a member of a non-governmental organization, a trade union or an employer's organization.

The civil society is made up of citizens, associated in different forms, having the same interests and devoting their time, knowledge and resources to promote their rights and interests.

Since we started the foundation, one of our main goals has been to support the transfer of good practices in the civil society environment. Our projects focused on the importance of the citizen, as a pillar in the development of an active citizenship in Romanian society.

We trust in young people's capacity to engage in an active citizenship process and we support partnerships, as a form that enhances the development of our community. The strategic directories assumed by our foundation are based on these principles.



## DEVELOPMENT THE NGO ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODEL

**STATUS:** in progress

**PROJECT:** Development of the NGO Entrepreneurship Model

**FUNDER:** Romanian- American Association

**COLLABORATORS:** Businesscore Associates SRL

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** February 2016 – July 2017

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society –Cluj-Napoca regional office

**PROJECT VALUE:** 13. 850 USD

An important project for both the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society and the Romanian non-profit environment, represented by the development of a strategic development model.

The project started with a diagnosis at the level of the organization and entities that are part of its structure, followed by the proposal of a strategy by rethinking its structure.

It is a novel project, as very few NGOs have the opportunity to undergo this process and the models to follow are limited. Through this process, we intended, as well as reorganizing the foundation, to develop a model that would apply to non-governmental, non-profit organizations in Romania.

One of the results achieved this far is the diagnosis of the organization, carried out in collaboration with Aliz Kosza, the mentor and facilitator of this process, and Răzvan Nicoară. It highlighted the challenges our organization faces, we rethought the statutory document that defined the organization elements, we made the organization chart and the foundation strategy, and as well as a business model applicable to the NGO field in Romania.

We organized meetings, both formal and informal, with the Civitas team members and board representatives, where we debated identity elements.

We are proud of this pilot project, because it can be replicated and it will help many organizations across the country. We also became aware of our strength, as a team, to reinvent ourselves over time.

*„The most important lesson I learned from this project is the need to adapt and be flexible, as an organization, and to capitalize the potential of each team member. If there is enough flexibility, we can discover resources we were not aware we had. In the non-profit environment, the bureaucratic approach does not work, as a large part of the person's individuality is lost.*

*Beyond the job description, this is just a guideline; the attention falls on the individual and his resources. As people, we have an unlimited potential, and a flexible structure allows us to get out of the comfort zone and to reveal ourselves again, and, in some cases, to discover latent capacities.”*

**Balogh Márton – Regional Manager Cluj-Napoca**

## COMPETENCIES FOR AGENCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SITE CONVERSION

**STATUS:** in progress

**PROJECT:** Competencies for Agencies for Sustainable Site Conversion

**FUNDER:** European Commission through Erasmus + program

**PARTNERS:** Društvo Za Oblikovanje Odrzivog Razvoja DOOR (Croatia), A Sud – Ecologia e Cooperazione Onlus (Italy), Ce.S.F.Or Centro Studi Formazione Orientamento (Italy), Europanorat Beratung, Trening, Management, Consulting GmbH (Germany), Bulgarian Development Agency Sdruzhenie (Bulgaria), CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society - Cluj-Napoca regional office

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** September 2015 – August 2017

**PROJECT VALUE:** 25.724 \$

This project creates a new multidisciplinary, educational curriculum for a sustainable conversion of public spaces. In fact it is a consultant for the sustainable conversion of spaces.

The first event within the project Old Structures – New Purposes was held in Cluj-Napoca. In order to emphasize the importance of the sustainable conversion of abandoned public spaces, the event was held at Casa Tranzit, a former synagogue converted into a space for cultural activities.

The event brought together over 50 people interested in the field of sustainable reconversion, including architects, university lecturers, representatives of non-governmental organizations and local public authorities. On this occasion we wanted to inform the public about good practices examples in the immediate vicinity (for example the Brush Factory in, Cluj-Napoca) and in partner countries (Croatia, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria).

During the event, we debated possible solutions on the usefulness and fate of buildings, such as Gara Mică and Terenurile in Mănăştur. We organized an exhibition that included photographs of abandoned buildings in Cluj-Napoca, in order to draw attention to the unexplored potential of these spaces.

During this event we promoted the online pilot course that took place later. The course was international, it involved ten participants from each partner country. The course focused on training professionals (architects, city planners, etc.) in the field of sustainable reconversion; in designing the module of Social Responsibility, we collaborated with Bogdana Neamţu, a university professor at the Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences.



*„One of the challenges we had to face was the lack of popularity of on-line courses in our country and finding people interested in participating in this course. In Romania, one of the greatest challenges is to reach a visible result in the field of reconverting abandoned buildings, as the bureaucratic activity can be overwhelming. The most important thing we learned from this project is that in order to be successful you need to collaborate.”*

**Anna Şargov – Project coordinator**

## ESTABLISHING THE TIME BANK – MUTUAL AID NETWORK

**STATUS:** finalized

**PROJECT:** To receive joy, means to give joy – Establishing the Time Bank – Mutual aid network

**FUNDER:** The NGO Romanian fund – the Volunteer Component

**PARTNER:** Children and Youth association "BAZIS"

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society–Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** June 2014 – May 2016

**PROJECT VALUE:** 80.865,70 Euro

Through this project we wanted to help build people's confidence in their future, to reduce their level of vulnerability and dependence on economic factors, and we supported them in trusting their own skills and abilities, as well as the skills and abilities of people around them.

We developed a program consisting of an online platform that offers users the possibility to exchange services. The innovative side of the program is the fact that within the system no money are being used, the only unit of measurement used is time: one hour= 1 time point.

Prior to the actual launch of the platform, we held 60 community meetings, after which we conducted a market research to identify people's needs and the manner in which such a program could meet their needs. The research was conducted on a sample of 500 people.

Since launching the platform in July 2015 over 200 members have registered, in the country and abroad, and we organized three meetings between the Time Bank members.

However, we believe that this program is not unusual, as our ancestors have practiced barter since ancient times. Among the services available on the Time Bank platform we name the following: physical work, agriculture, domestic work (cooking, baking, cleanliness, pet walking) babysitting, education, training, intellectual services (counselling, translations, design), transport services, culture, leisure and entertainment.



*„This program was very close to my heart, because I was part of its development since the first idea. The implementation period brought me great joy, as we were all witnessing how our dream was shaping up day-to-day. Compared to other projects, even the administrative part was friendly.”*

*The best memory I have is related to the moment I became a member of the Time Bank. For a long time I wanted to learn how to play the piano, and through the platform, I met a teacher. It was the moment when I realized that as soon as you have the courage to take that step forward dreams come true*

*I am grateful to my colleague, Kis Zoltan. We worked very well together in this project and we made a great team. We used to say that he is the head of the projects, while I am the heart.”*

**Kulcsár Orsolya – Project Manager**

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU IN ODORHEIU SECUIESC

**PROJECT:** Citizens advice bureau in Odorheiu Secuiesc

**FUNDER:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society and Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** permanent service, launched in 2002

What began as a temporary project turned into a permanent community service.

The Citizens advice bureau was created 14 years ago, and because of the need it represents at community level it is still a support for locals. Just like 14 years ago, the office's role is to help people on the legislative side. The main areas where services are offered are as follows: health, social services, labour relations, consumer protection, civil rights and obligations, property regimes, taxes and fees, education, notary, child protection and public services.

Since the service was launched the office work is carried out following the same 4 principles:

- Free of charge services- the service is accessible to every citizen
- Data privacy
- Independence from political interests
- Impartial character

The Bureau does not solve the citizen's problem, but it offers alternatives to solve problems. It helps locals be informed before taking a decision.

In order to facilitate access to legal information, besides the office work, we also created a weekly column in a local newspaper, where we present news or the latest legislative changes.

The public of the bureau consists mostly of people over the age of 50, and the most frequently debated topic is related to social security. Statistically, on average per year, our office provides counselling services for 1100 people.



# Developing human resources



The CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society recognizes the importance of developing the quality of human resources, both for a successful integration on the labour market, and for developing skills or training those who are already employed.

The CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society, through its projects in the field of human resources always emphasizes the interconnection between theoretical and practical aspects, while taking into account the demands on the labour market. We also target people with fewer training opportunities, who are in vulnerable categories, to increase their inclusion on the labour market.

The results of the Civitas Foundation projects strengthened our team's belief in education's primordial role within the community, both to increase individual income, respectively- to increase life quality, and to develop each community as a whole, to make it independent and self-sustainable.

The CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society is accredited as a provider of professional counselling and occupational guidance, by the National Employment Agency and by the National Qualifications Authority, for the following specializations/qualifications:

## **Odorheiu Secuiesc regional office:**

1. Entrepreneurial Competences (Specialisation)
2. Project Management (Specialisation)
3. Fruit grower (Qualification)

## **Cluj-Napoca regional office:**

1. Entrepreneurial Competences (Specialisation)
2. Chamber consultant for business promotion and information (Specialisation)
3. Computer skills (Initiation)
4. Community development facilitator (Specialisation)
5. Project Management (Development)

## AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS – LOCAL HUBS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FARMS

**STATUS:** in progress

**PROJECT:** Agricultural High Schools – Local Hubs for the development of small and medium sized farms

**FUNDER:** Romanian-American Foundation

**PARTNERS:** World Vision Romania (WVR), Junior Achievement Romania (JAR), The Centre for Economic Education and Development in Romania (CEED), The Romanian Centre for European Policies (CRPE)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** October 2015 – October 2017

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Cluj Napoca regional office

**PROJECT VALUE:** 132,000 \$

The aim of the project was to highlight the importance of the value chain in agriculture, for the students of the eight agricultural high schools participating in the program. Fifteen students were selected from each high school, to attend study visits together with two accompanying teachers. These visits focused on two areas: zoo technics and horticulture. The agricultural high school were selected



from the following localities: Miroslava, Huși, Brănești, Slatina, Salonta, Turda, Ciumbrud and Prejmer.

The project's secondary goal was to teach the participating students and teachers to organize study visits, as in the future they will replicate this model. Each visit lasted four days; each day was dedicated to an element in the agricultural value chain: production, processing, marketing and opportunities for the future. During these four days both students and teachers had to complete a journal, and at the end of the program the data was collected and interpreted.

Through this program, we aimed to develop the students' capacities and to guide them towards sustainable agriculture. We presented them examples of small and medium-sized enterprises to inspire them to choose a career in this direction, and also educational and funding programs in this direction.

We pride ourselves on being able to successfully implement the 8 study visits and that we have succeeded in highlighting the importance of choosing a career in the field. The effort we made to organize the study visits evolved over time in a reason to be joyful when we received the appreciation of teachers and students eager to start their path in sustainable agriculture.

*„One of the greatest lessons learned in this project is that a rigorous planning leads to a smooth and flexible implementation. At the same time, I also had the chance to identify project design skills and abilities I was not aware I had, as I had never been put in the situation to prove them. I am glad that through non-formal education techniques we managed to raise the students' interest in agriculture!”*

**Carmen Ciobanu – Project Coordinator**



# Developing Local Administrative Capacity



Strengthening the operational capacity of local administration is essential for economic development. Local authorities are not just an administrator of public assets, but they can also play the role of a catalyst for development, encouraging and coordinating the actions of other institutions involved in the community.

At the same time, on the background of the structural changes in the last years at the level of the Romanian public administration, with the accession to the European Union, the pressure to increase its efficiency and activities has increased. New opportunities and responsibilities arise as a continuous adaptation of the approaches through continuous training and cooperation.

With its projects the Civitas Foundation supported the development of the local administrative capacity, as an active and consequent partner for the local actions to favour socio-economic development.



## ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP FOR GOOD TRANSPARENT LOCAL GOVERNANCE

**PROJECT:** Active citizenship for good transparent local governance

**FUNDER:** SEE grant 2009 – 2014, within the NGO Romanian fund

**PARTNERS:** The centre for social development CEDES Sighişoara, Resource Center for Public Participation CeRe Bucarest, Center for DOCUMENTATION and Public Information Iaşi, CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society, Odorheiu Secuiesc Regional Office

**APPLICANT:** CENPO Cluj-Napoca

**IMPLEMENTATION TIME:** March 2015 - April 2016

**PROJECT VALUE:** 8900 Euro

Given that elections were held in 2016, we wanted to inform the citizens about the work of local councillors across the country. We analysed in detail the councils' web sites to see if the transparent communication principle is complied with.

The project was very interesting as we had a very good collaboration with some of the county councils; however, this is not valid for all of them. Where we noticed a lack of activity reports, we made complaints to the counsel. Thus, we created a database of all counsellors, and also of the reports each of them wanted to make available to the public. In order to facilitate a transparent governance, we created a model for local councillors to guide them in drafting the necessary documents for reporting.

We are proud of the results we achieved with this project and with the governors' increased level of transparency. There were good examples and councillors with whom we communicated very well. At the end of the project, we organized a forum where we awarded the most involved counsellors.

Furthermore, for a good transparency of the governance process, we believe that this service should be permanent, or at least we believe that launching certain legislative programs indicating the necessity of a constant reporting of the local counsellors' activities would help the evolution of the transparency process.

## DEVELOPING THE ASSOCIATIVE STRUCTURES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

**PROJECT:** Developing the Associative Structures of Local Authorities

**FUNDER:** The Inter-community Development Association Câmpia Transilvaniei

**APPLICANT:** CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society – Cluj Napoca regional office

**PARTNERS:** 43 people

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** January – April 2016

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** 30.000 RON

The CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society started this process in 2002, when it helped establish an Inter-community Development Association of Local Authorities.

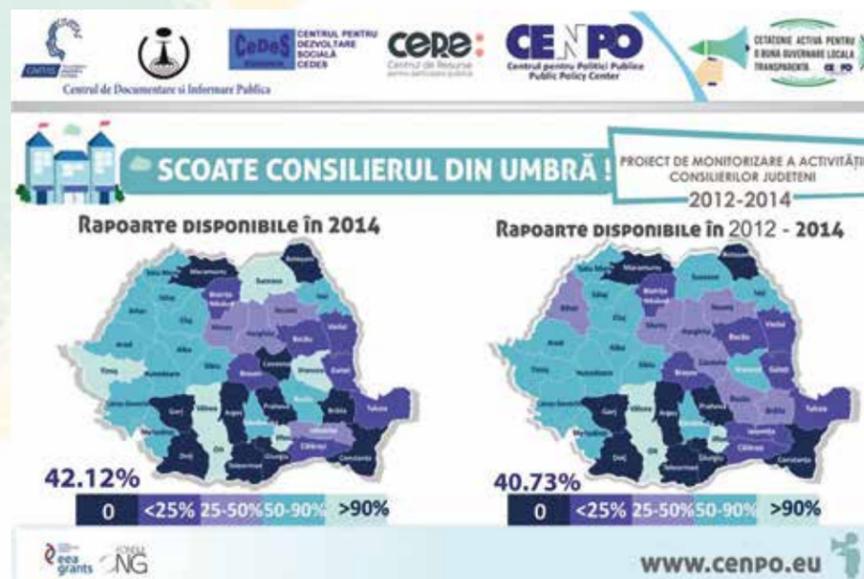
In the last 15 years, the most active of these structures was the Inter-community Development Association Câmpia Transilvaniei, with which we had annual collaborations, consisting of courses, creating local development strategies, assistance in the development of the services provided by the Association.

In 2016 we organized an experience exchange event dedicated to people working in town halls, within the Inter-community Development Association Câmpia Transilvaniei.

The experience exchange took place over a period of 3 days in the Eger areas in Hungary, and approximately 45 people attended.

During this visit, we were inspired by the working manner of the various partners that run the LEADER project in the areas, or who manage collaborative projects of local administrations in the region.

In the monthly visits that took place after the visit, we debated the examples seen in Hungary and the ways of replicating the respective projects.



## Projects submitted in 2016



The end of 2016 meant the end of a cycle and the start of a new one, that is to say, the completion of the projects carried out and the submission of new ones. The teams of the two regional offices of the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society have submitted the following projects:

### ODORHEIU SECUIESC REGIONAL OFFICE:

**PROJECT TITLE:** SPEED – Towards an Efficient and Developed Economy- Human Capital Operational Program

**FUNDER:** Human Capital Operational Program 3.7

**STATUTE:** Applicant

### CLUJ-NAPOCA REGIONAL OFFICE:

1. **PROJECT TITLE:** COP NET – Network of facilitators in the development of associative structures

**FUNDER:** Romanian- American Foundation

**STATUS:** Applicant

2. **PROJECT TITLE:** FOOD HUB – Market integration centre for agri-food products

**FUNDER:** Romanian- American Foundation

**STATUS:** Applicant

3. **PROJECT TITLE:** INNOVATION BROKER – New competency and professional development for sustainable rural development and social inclusion across Europe

**FUNDER:** ERASMUS +

**STATUS:** Applicant

4. **PROJECT TITLE:** Cooperation between beekeepers and herb producers for the development of “The tea box”

**FUNDER:** The national programme for rural development 16.4

**STATUS:** Applicant

5. **PROJECT TITLE:** A plus for the start-ups in the Northwest region

**FUNDER:** Human Capital Operational Program 3.7

**STATUS:** Applicant

6. **PROJECT TITLE:** Integrated measures for the marginalized communities in Câmpia Transilvaniei

**FUNDER:** Human Capital Operational Program 4.2

**STATUS:** Applicant

7. **PROJECT TITLE:** Alba-Iulia – Responsible local community

**FUNDER:** Human Capital Operational Program 5.1

**STATUS:** Partner

8. **PROJECT TITLE:** START-UP @ CENTRU

**FUNDER:** Human Capital Operational Program 3.7

**STATUS:** Partner

# Events



In March 2015 the Agricultural Cooperative Lunca Someșului Mic, supported by the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society, was awarded the title Entrepreneur of the month. About one year after this event, in February 2016, His Excellency, Ambassador Hans Klemm proposed a new meeting to find out what are the challenges and successes of the project and of the Cooperative.

The idea behind this event was related to a new business model, based on association, sharing and capitalizing on the many local advantages without foreign capital but relying on local forces. The event also included a visit to the greenhouse of one of the cooperative members.



**Forum for responsible governance** – The event took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and it was dedicated to positive example of local government in Romania. The event was organized within the project “Active citizenship for good transparent local governance”, whose goal is to motorize the activity of county councillors.



## Work meeting CIVITAS Foundation– Scuola Centrale Formazione

Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May we organized a meeting with the representatives of the Scuola Centrale Formazione din Italia, to discuss a possible collaboration between the two entities.

Following the discussions, project ideas were suggested on the Civitas activity sectors, as well as possible form of funding these projects.

Some of the projects suggested were developed and submitted in 2016.

## we organized

**Old Structures, New Purposes** – The event was organized within the project Competencies for Sustainable Site Conversion COMPASS funded by the European Union through the Erasmus + programme. The initiative created a joint discussion area on the sustainable reconversion of abandoned public spaces.



**Fruit Festival – Village in the city** – An annual event that aims to bring together communities in Harghita County, by promoting a short chain in agriculture and cultural activities. We encourage rural householders to participate in the fairs organized within the festival and to sell natural products. At the same time we encourage people in urban area to participate at this gathering and to support small local producers by buying traditional products.



## we attended

### NGO Fest – Good deeds workshop

NGO Fest is the largest event in the non-governmental sector in Romania, a promoter of public participation, of the philanthropic and voluntary behaviour, but also an opportunity to bring NGOs in the attention of citizens and the general public.

The event took place in Bucharest on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May and it brought together over 150 associations and foundations across Romania, in order to inspire the community and to convince people that change begins with each of us.



### BAROCK Festival–Banffy Castle Days

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Banffy Castle Days edition was held during 11-12 June 2016. We attended this event with the Medicinal Plants Garden group in Ardeal and the Agricultural Cooperative Honey Fields, two Civitas Foundation initiatives.

The event was a good opportunity to present these two projects to the public, to promote their values and to stimulate economic transactions. There were two full days which brought together the members of the two initiatives and confirmed the public appreciations.



### Tranzit - Seminar on youth work and youth policy practices in support of young people's transition to autonomy and work life

The event took place from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>, and the purpose was to share good working practice and youth policy in different countries, in order to face the challenges young people faced in their transition to autonomy, with particular emphasis on the areas of employment, education and training.

We shared and learned from the local and national work interventions and youth policies in countries such as Germany or Finland, but we also identified other good practices in CoE members in the field of transition to autonomy.

We familiarized ourselves with the online learning platform that can be used as a model in our projects, while offering learning tools that are very useful for activities with young people.

## we attended

### RuralNet

An event organized by the Crono Association in Craiova took place between July 21<sup>st</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event was organized on the background of the General Assembly of the RuralNet network members and it was made possible in the context of the dissemination activity within the project „Reducing exclusion in GAL SUDOLT”.

The following topics were on the AG agenda: Accepting WWF as a partner member; The Gala of community initiatives; the contribution and status of partner members; new projects for the future.

On this topic, the CIVITAS Foundation expressed its desire to help with logistics and promotion materials, dissemination of the event information.



### 'Sustainable Staffordshire' workshop at the New Vic Theatre – England

Our partners from Keele University, England, invited us to attend their event from 11 to 13 July. Our colleague, Kulcsár Orsolya from the Civitas Odorheiu Secuiesc office made a presentation within the workshop about the role of the Civitas Foundation and the implementation of the Tradition Fruits project.

### Travelling Workshop in Armenia and Georgia

Between 24 and 28 October 2016, for four days, some of the CIVITAS Foundation team members attended different workshops in Armenia and Georgia.

The topics covered by these workshops were civic participation, participatory budgeting, the relation between NGOs and the public, innovative projects and decentralization.

Moreover, there were 4 field visits, in order to observe good practice examples in the field of agriculture and zoo-technics, classical business ideas with a contemporary approach: innovative, highly technological, and above all, sustainable.

### Adventures. Advice. Bold projects.

The Structural Consulting together with the European Commission Representation in Romania launched the first Romanian comic strip on European funds. The comic strip had both a recreational and an informative role, presenting in a friendly manner the specific features of European funds and project management to the public.

At the launching event the director of the CIVITAS Foundation Cluj-Napoca regional office, Balogh Márton, gave a speech on accessing European funds.

**PĂȚANI. POVEȚE.  
PROIECTE ÎNDRĂZNEȚE**



### Visit to Norway – Green Businesses

A part of the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society team attended a networking event in Norway. The purpose of the visit was to discuss with potential partners who share our vision, in order to establish a collaboration.

The event's theme was Green Businesses – in the context of Social Affairs.

### PRIA Agriculture Conference

The PRIA Agriculture Conference is the most important autumn event for agriculture and it is a real platform for debate between authorities, farmers and companies operating in the sector.

In our country agriculture plays an extremely important role, however, there is still potential for growth, as Romania has a very high potential in the agricultural sector. During the conference we talked about some of the problems we face, but also about possible solutions or suggestion for an essential agriculture growth in Romania.



# Financial Report



## Fundatia Civitas pentru Societatea Civilă

	RON
<b>Venituri</b>	<b>2,505,587</b>
Fonduri nerambursabile din surse publice	1,378,395
Fonduri nerambursabile din surse private	314,456
Donații, sponsorizări de la persoane fizice și companii	65,017
Dividende	582,352
Venituri din activități economice	79,443
Alte venituri	85,924
<b>Cheltuieli</b>	<b>2,251,143</b>
Cheltuieli cu derularea proiectelor	2,052,293
Cheltuieli administrative	198,850
<b>Rezultat net</b>	<b>254,444</b>

# Civitas Consulting



From a general perspective, the challenge of 2016 was to plan our internal work to achieve a high service quality and satisfactory financial results, as we faced a low predictability in terms of adequate PNDR lines funding, with no timetable including the launching sessions date, allocated values or required quality thresholds.

An important change was that of developing a portfolio of private client by specializing colleagues in this type of beneficiaries, an objective we assumed it ensure diversified income sources that can maintain a steady financial flow.

At a particular level, the most significant challenge was to submit an application through an adequate POR financing line. This is due to the fact that the active staff within the organization had never had a similar experience.

In 2016 we managed to reduce the value of sub-contracted activities by developing competencies needed to develop cost-benefit analyses (as required by AFIR) at the organization level.

Overcoming the above mentioned challenges implied a great deal of work from the entire team, but especially from our colleagues who went out of their professional comfort zone in order to develop existing competences at organizational level, and to general added value.

The publication of the selected reports through which we won the submitted projects during the 2014-2020 programming period were the events that created the winning mood, so important for building a strong and motivated team.

Moreover, we believe that maintaining a team of the same people, with the addition of a new colleague who will continue our tradition of developing the career of young graduates is a success.

Even if we use clichés, we must not forget that *as we live we learn, and only does not work is not wrong*, but what is very important is to capitalize both successful and unsuccessful experiences in developing the existing level of competences at organization level to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

## The Association Centre for innovation, marketing and business - CLIMB

The Association Centre for innovation, marketing and business is a Social Economic Structure set up within a project implemented by the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society. Its purpose was to provide state-of-the-art services to promote social and typical business. The agency benefits from mentoring and business consulting from the CIVITAS Foundation. It differs from other advertising agencies existing on the market as it follows the trends of social economy and transforms them into useful explanations transposed into courageous promotional decisions designed to inspire the community.

As a Social Economic Structure, CLIMB aims to bring a valuable input in the community, through examples of good practice, by promoting and supporting social affairs and missions, and by protecting vulnerable groups. In a developing country we meet challenges everywhere, which means we need responsible models for our community and, in particular, we need support.

The main projects developed in 2016 focused on promoting Romanian social economy. Thus, the platform **craftul.ro**, was created to bring together craft products and social enterprises across the country in order to promote them to the general public and to facilitate economic transactions.

Another project we pride ourselves with is the **Campaign Discover. Encourage. Give**, whose purpose was to promote the social enterprise concept. During this campaign, we collaborated with 9 social enterprises in Transylvania, preparing gifts for employees and collaborators for large companies in Romania. Thus, we contributed to increasing the reputation of social enterprises, informing the public about the social missions carried out and of course, increasing sales.

The CLIMB Association services include the following:

- Branding and Design
- Marketing
- Public relations and communication
- Event organizing



## Association for Local Products Marketing - AMPLU

The Association for Local Products Marketing - AMPLU was also set up within a project implemented by the CIVITAS Foundation for Civil Society and it benefits from mentoring and business consultancy from the foundation. It was developed to express the essence of the products through its services in a simple way and consistent with the manufacturer's values.

The technological flow used is semi-automatic, and the manufacturing component is a significant part. An important aspect is the available consultancy and expertise with regards to the materials, the manual packing techniques and the marketing tools.

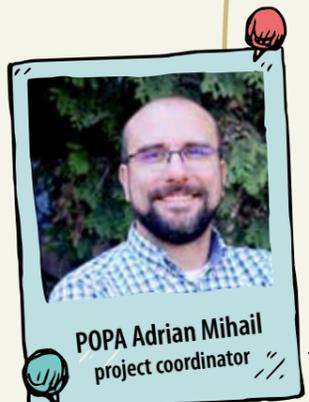
The association was developed within the Integrated Support of Social Economy Structures, co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Sectorial Operational Program Human Resources 2007-2013. The field of activity is to provide specific packaging services to SMEs and similar structures as an economic dimension.

Through AMPLU, we wanted to help small farmers to facilitate their access on the market, through professional packaging and labelling services for vegetables and fruits. Moreover, we facilitate their access to supermarkets, which is not easily accessible to small farmers in rural areas due to the strict packaging and labelling product rules.

2016 was the year of challenges for both AMPLU and the partner farmers' associations; however we managed to vividly overcome them, starting a new page in the development of the Romanian rural world.



2016, what was it all about according to the Civitas team



## Partners

Foundation for the Development of Civil Society  
Centre for Community mediation and security  
Pact Foundation  
Romanian Policies Centre  
LIA Foundation  
Association for Biodynamic Agriculture (Switzerland)  
Agrar Media  
Eco Ruralis  
Norgesvel (Norway)  
Szent István University (Hungary)  
GAK Nonprofit Közhasznú Kft. (Hungary)  
Ormánság Foundation  
Tiszasas Town Hall  
Centre Capacitació Agrària Manresa (Catalonia)  
Ruskin Mill Trust (Great Britain)  
Pro Down Foundation  
Orbán Foundation  
Pro Autist Foundation  
Businessscore Associates SRL  
Drustvo Za Oblikovanje Odrzivog Razvoja DOOR (Croatia)  
A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione Onlus (Italy)  
Ce.S.F.Or Centro Studi Formazione Orientamento (Italy)  
Europarorat Beratung, Training, Management, Consulting GmbH (Germany)  
Bulgarian Development Agency Sdruzhenie (Bulgaria)  
World Vision România (WVR)  
Junior Achievement România (JAR)  
Centre for Economic Education and Development in Romania (CEED),  
Cedes Sighisoara  
Centre Bucharest  
Centre for Documentation and Public Information Iasi  
Foundation for Children and Youth „BÁZIS” (Hungary)

## Funders

Romanian-American Foundation  
Swiss-Romanian partnership fund  
Conservation and Revitalization of Cultural Natural Heritage  
Programme; Programme Operator: Ministry of Culture  
The NGO fund in Romania  
European Union, through the Lifelong Learning Program  
Erasmus + KA2 Strategic (Cooperation and Innovation for  
Good Practices)  
Harghita County Council, through the General Directorate for  
Social Assistance and Child Protection  
European Commission through the Erasmus + program  
Odorheiu Secuiesc City Hall  
Norwegian Fund through EEA Grants

We thank  
all our partners and  
collaborators,  
our projects wouldn't have  
had the same impact  
without them!



CIVITAS

foundation  
alapítvány  
fundăția

2016

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