

Annual Report

2022



Civitas

Fundația - Alapítvány - Foundation

30
years

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In 2022, it will be 30 years since we started working every day to grow strong communities. Without the people we've worked with along the way, without our beneficiaries, without those who have worked on our team, this anniversary would not have happened. The Chairman of the Civitas Foundation Board comes with a message to all of you who have been with us.

"Civitas is a dream that has become a reality thanks to the creativity, dedication to local communities and belief in the good of all who have worked on our team. For many of us, it is where we have spent a significant part of our lives. It is a motivating reality that has managed to provide a sense of belonging to something good, of support for people, for local communities.

Over the years, we have faced many challenges. One of the first was the move away from political influence and dependence on political parties. Asserting a Civitas identity and working transparently has made it possible to diversify the funding of our activities. Another challenge has come from the need to constantly adapt to the needs of local communities. The world has changed very quickly since the 2000s. The conditions of global systemic crises and uncertainties caused by changes in funding policies has tested our resilience.

We have managed to overcome some of the difficulties we have encountered and continue to face others thanks to the people who have stood by us. We are grateful to our colleagues who have worked with love and dedication over the years. We are grateful to our beneficiaries, to our local communities, to those who have continuously inspired and motivated us over the years. And last but not least, we are grateful to our funding partners, who have believed in us and worked together to create impactful programs!

We want to keep the faith that the world will become a better place thanks to our work. We continue to aim to make a difference to the everyday lives of people in local communities, and this comes with a lot of responsibility and care for those we work with, but it also provides motivation and joy for thirty years. If it has succeeded for those who have been on the Civitas team over the years, it will succeed for those who come in the years to come!"



Kolumbán Gábor,
Chairman of the Board of the Civitas
Foundation for Civil Society

For over 30 years we have been growing strong communities

- 250+ successfully implemented projects
- 70+ startups established through our projects
- 280+ farmers supported to sell their products through short chains
- 50+ local and micro-regional development strategies
- 5000+ people trained through our training courses

We are the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society

At the heart of our work is the idea of 'community'. We believe in the power of community, in civic engagement and that citizens and authorities must be brought together to turn initiatives into projects, plans into reality and development opportunities into prosperity. For more than 30 years, we have been constantly devoting time and energy to generate successful models and sustainable solutions in the area of entrepreneurship, social economy and rural development.

Civitas Foundation has two regional offices, located in the North-West and Central regions of Romania, in Cluj-Napoca and Odorheiu Secuiesc. Our programmes and projects are in the field of regional and local development, falling under four sub-fields:

- **Entrepreneurship and social economy**
- **Rural economic development**
- **Community development and good governance**
- **Strengthening civil society**



Team

BOARD



Kolumbán Gábor
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Manager proiect

TEAM CLUJ-NAPOCA



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Bartiș Simona
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Călușer Monica
Manager proiect



Incze Zsuzsanna
Manager proiect



Ciobanu Paula
Manager proiect



Giurgiu Paula
Manager proiect



Bulai Daniel
Manager proiect



Sîrbu Simona
Asistent proiect



Otilia Predatu
Expert monitorizare afaceri



Ciprian Martin
Expert monitorizare afaceri



Halasz Brigitta
Secretar administrativ



Ferencz Maria
Secretar administrativ



Olaru Ana
Specialist comunicare

TEAM ODRORHEIU SECUIESC



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Director executiv și financiar



Orbán Árpád
Director de dezvoltare



Kis Zoltán
Director de programe



Molnár Judith
Director de programe



Báakai Magdolna
Manager proiect



Bartha-Pál Csaba
Coordonator consiliere



Bálint Mária-Magdolna
Consilier



Mihály István
Consilier



Szotyori Ana-Maria
Asistent proiect



Bara Erzsébet
Asistent proiect

CUMSECADE SHOP



Debreci Orsolya
Director magazin



Csíki Kinga Katalin
Vânzătoare



Benedek Melinda
Vânzătoare

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

**We are promoters of
entrepreneurship and social
economy in Romania.**

**We develop sustainable social
economy structures and we
are with them to help them
face challenges.**

Entrepreneurship in Gherla

Duration: September 2021 - December 2023

Budget: EUR 700 000

Financier: European Social Fund through the Human Capital Operational Programme, POCU 2014-2020

Civitas role: Promoter

Office: Cluj-Napoca

In the *Entrepreneurship in Gherla* project, 17 entrepreneurs from the Municipality of Gherla received a grant of EUR 25,000 to set up their business, as well as advice, mentoring and support to implement their entrepreneurial dream.

The training of future entrepreneurs started with information and professional counseling activities in 2021 for 250 disadvantaged people from Gherla Municipality (from the Marginalized Urban Area) aged over 18 and who are unemployed or inactive. These activities continued in the first part of 2022. Of these, 58 people participated in the entrepreneurial skills development course and out of 40 business plans, 17 received funding of €25,000.

The 17 entrepreneurs went through an intensive mentoring programme, and then set up 17 businesses in different fields of activity: nutrition, cleaning, beauty, woodworking, computer repair and others. In the next stage, the entrepreneurs created 35 jobs in the Municipality of Gherla. Throughout this period, we monitored the implementation of the funded business plans, supporting the entrepreneurs to take their business forward.



Antreprenoriat în Gherla



In 2022:

135

people received professional counseling

58

people completed the entrepreneurship skills course

17

businesses were funded and set up by the project

35

jobs have been created in the 17 start-ups in Gherla

Duration: 1 December 2020 - 31 January 2023

Budget: EUR 25 337

Funder: Erasmus+

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: Monomyths Association (Romania), Nuorisokeskus Piispala (Finland), Sdruzhenie Walk Together (Bulgaria), Terram Pacis (Norway), InterCollege APS (Denmark), Asociacija Tavo Europa (Lithuania), Entrepreneurship and Social Economy Group (Greece).

Office: Cluj-Napoca

In 2022, as part of the Youth Finance Academy, we developed a non-formal training tool on financial education for trainers and youth workers. The toolkit is structured around two themes: Financial Education for Youth and Financial Education for Young Entrepreneurs. It can be accessed free of charge on our website: www.civitas.ro.

The year was full of trainings and networking events on financial education:

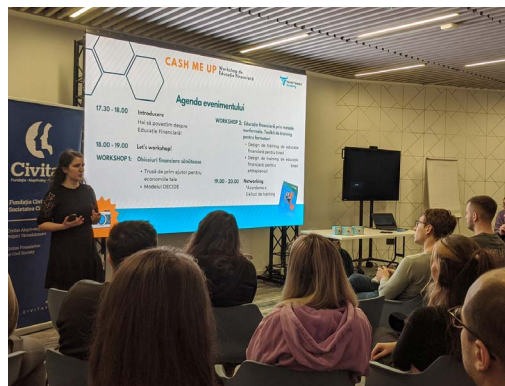
- 17 February - **Youth Finance Academy Hackathon in Bucharest**
- 30 June - 6 July - **Joint Staff Training for Youth Workers in Lithuania**
- 3 - 8 October - **Financial Education Camp for Young People in Bulgaria**
- 24 November - **Youth Financial Education Forum in Greece**
- 6 - 13 December - **Financial Education Camp for Young Entrepreneurs in Denmark**

"I learned a lot of things I didn't even know I needed to know. I learned what the first steps are to opening my own business.

I think I was really lucky to be involved in this project, it helped me to think outside the box and dare to take the next step to start my own business.

I had the chance to interact with people from different countries and exchange knowledge and opinions."

Testimonials from Youth Finance Academy participants



Integrated social services for the communities in Țara Năsăudului LAG

Duration: May 2021 - December 2023

Budget: RON 4 639 106,64

Financier: European Social Fund through the Human Capital Operational Programme, POCU 2014-2020

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: GAL Țara Năsăudului (Partnership Leader), HEKS Foundation/EPER Romania

Office: Cluj-Napoca

The target group of the project includes a number of 250 people (125 young people or adults and 125 elderly people) from the territory of GAL Țara Năsăudului (13 communities) at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The year 2022 was decisive for the entrepreneurship activity in the project, as we carried out the two key actions for it: the Entrepreneurial Skills for Future Entrepreneurs course and the business plan competition for which course graduates could apply.

In the competition, we selected 10 entrepreneurs from the Năsăud region. The selection was extremely important for the following activities: mentoring to improve the business plans, setting up the 10 enterprises and providing funding for their development. After these steps, we were with the new entrepreneurs in the follow-up phase, with all the challenges related to the execution of budgets, the implementation of purchases and the creation of jobs.

In 2022:

45

people who have completed the Entrepreneurship Skills course.

We ran a business plan competition.

10

10 businesses were selected as winners and received mentoring and business development funding.

20

More than 20 jobs were created in the communities of the LAG Țara Năsăudului.



Procurement with social and environmental impact

Duration: April 2021 - June 2023

Budget: EUR 237 634,36

Financier: Active Citizens Fund Romania Programme, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants 2014-2021

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: Center for Nonprofit Law Association, Ateliere Senza Frontiere Association

Office: Cluj-Napoca

Beneficiaries of the project are social and environmental NGOs, social enterprises, protected units, federations/ coalitions, public administration and companies.

In 2022, we ran a series of events dedicated to both companies and public authorities. We supported companies with relevant information on social and environmental procurement and presented examples of social enterprises. In this way, we collectively concluded that long-term collaboration between companies and social businesses, through the purchase of products and services offered by social enterprises, is highly beneficial.

On the other hand, representatives of public authorities benefited from training sessions on procurement procedures with social and environmental impact, as well as the preparation of documentation before launching procedures. Towards the end of the year, we enthusiastically launched the **Social and Environmental Impact Awards 2022** competition, where we want to have as many impactful applications as possible to award in the coming year.



“There is a lot of need in the market for interventions from both directions: from companies and authorities to move towards purchasing services and/or products in a responsible way. Just as there is a lot of room and need for as many social businesses as possible to emerge and grow existing ones.”

Carmen Ciobanu, Social Entrepreneurship Expert



In 2022:

A Guide to Procurement with Social and Green Clauses has been created.

We ran **2 information sessions** for companies on procurement with social and environmental impact.

A Public Policy Report: Procurement with Social and Environmental Impact was produced.

Launched a competition for companies and authorities that have made procurements with social and environmental impact.

Transylvanian Moviepreneurs

Duration: April 2021 - June 2023

Budget: EUR 237 634,36

Financier: Active Citizens Fund Romania Programme, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants 2014-2021

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: 23 FILM STUDIO & MEDIA SRL, Projects ehf (Iceland)

Office: Cluj-Napoca

Transylvanian Moviepreneurs is an entrepreneurial education project for young professionals in the cultural and creative industries, and its main objective is to create connections between top professionals and entrepreneurs in the creative industries.

In 2022, we focused our efforts on disseminating the short film made by 18 young people at the boot camp held in 2021 and the results of the project. As a result of running the **8 dissemination events**, we have seen results that were initially unforeseen as a spill over effect of this project. In the online events, we inserted moments of getting to know the audience and analyzing their needs and expectations. In this way, we identified a **community of over 700 people working in the cultural and creative sectors who expressed the same needs**: the need for access to information in the field, for networking, to learn examples of best practice, access to funding and to a community in which they could develop and offer their services. These needs were also confirmed by the guests at the event, experienced professionals, which gives a line of continuity for the sustainability of the project, because we have thus confirmed a number of needs of a large community already defined.



“Running the two types of educational programmes (an entrepreneurship course and a film boot camp organized in 2021), as well as organizing the 9 dissemination events, with adaptation in a pandemic period, were lessons from which we learned a lot in terms of event organization as well as working with participants. Well, these aspects will constitute, in the future, bases from which to start building new concepts of cultural-educational events”.

Carmen Ciobanu, Project Manager



In 2022:

We organized **8 events** to disseminate the short film made by the young people in the project.

More than **700 people** attended the dissemination events and watched the short film made by the young people in the project.

SELC - Social Entrepreneurship in Local Communities

Duration: 2 December 2019 - 1 July 2022

Budget: EUR 224,182.65

Financer: Erasmus+ Programme

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: Danis Foundation for Managerial Development (Cluj-Napoca), Association Centre for Nonprofit Legislation CNLR (Bucharest), Consorzio Materahub Industrie Culturali e Creative (Matera, Italy), Synthesis Center for Research and Education Limited (Nicosia, Cyprus), Diesis Network (Brussels, Belgium)

Office: Cluj-Napoca



In the framework of the project, we, Civitas Foundation, coordinated an ambitious activity: we developed and launched a multilingual transnational crowdfunding platform, which crowned SELC's efforts. On the We Grow Ideas platform (wegrowideas.eu), crowdfunding campaigns were run by social entrepreneurs from the countries involved in the project. Beyond the crowdfunding campaigns, we populated the platform with a large number of resources resulting from the project, which can be accessed free of charge: articles, webinars, presentations of the research conducted, public policy briefs, curricula, examples of good practice, interviews with relevant actors, etc. In parallel with the development of the platform, we organized international training sessions online and in person in Matera (Italy) for 74 adults with entrepreneurial initiatives.



"Researching SELC's social business incubation models has given us a better understanding of the current reality. Thus, we can now better represent the needs of social enterprises/ social business incubators. The human-centered design method we have used in our entrepreneurship training activities is an element of innovation that we can transfer to other courses to make them more attractive and up-to-date."

Kinga-Árkosi Mariann, Project Manager



In 2022:

- We analyzed **3 models of social incubation** (Romania, Italy, Cyprus) and created 3 public policy briefs on social incubation in the same countries.
- We created an integrated guide and toolkit on social business incubation for entrepreneurs with **20 best practice examples** on social incubation models and 10 best practice studies on crowdfunding for social enterprises.
- We have developed a transnational and multilingual crowdfunding platform with **9 crowdfunding campaigns** generating over 9400 EUR for local projects. We trained **19 employees** of partner organizations and
- **45 (future) entrepreneurs**

The role of the social economy in community development

Duration: October 2021 - December 2022

Budget: USD 50,000

Funder: Open Society Foundations

Civitas role: Promoter

Office: Cluj-Napoca

Through this project, we aimed to work to strengthen Civitas Foundation's capacity to participate in working groups with ministries to represent the NGO sector and support social economy structures to increase their resilience through education, awareness raising and funding schemes.

"Being part of communities of practice at both national and European level, as well as being part of monitoring committees, is a big responsibility, but also a great opportunity to make a difference and get things done."

Carmen Ciobanu, Project Manager



In 2022:

We organized a series of online meetings with representatives of the **Ministry of Labour and Social Protection** on the topic of social enterprises for people with disabilities (social cooperatives).

As members of the Romanian Economic and Social Council, we have analyzed draft legislation submitted to the Council for approval, which concerns the social economy sector.

At the beginning of 2022, we became official members of **AFIN, the first non-bank financial institution in Romania dedicated exclusively to the social economy sector**, created at the initiative of social entrepreneurs in Romania.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Labour and the World Bank, we became a core member of the **Social Economy Community of Practice SECoP**, which addresses the limited awareness and recognition of the social economy environment among policy makers. The main objective is to contribute to the dialogue on the growth and sustainability of the social economy and social entrepreneurship in Romania.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We support local initiatives in rural communities. Our aim is to make members of these communities aware of their resources and use them responsibly.

Food Hub II

Duration: September 2021 - December 2023

Budget: 431,952.00 USD

Funder: Romanian-American Foundation

Civitas role: promoter

Partners: Civitas Foundation Odorheiu Secuiesc, Center for Mediation and Community Security (CMSC), Open Fields Foundation, Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE)

Office: Cluj-Napoca

The **target group** of the project consists of small food producers in the area of action of the food hubs who, through the activities of the programme, have access to marketing and distribution services for their own production.

Food Hub II aimed to create models of short food chains in 4 regions of the country. Through the project, 5 Food Hub centers were set up: **Nod Verde** (supported by Civitas Foundation, in Cluj-Napoca, **Helyénvaló** (supported by Civitas Foundation, in Odorheiu Secuiesc), **Nord Natural** (supported by Open Fields Foundation, in Câmpulung), **Roade și Merinde** (supported by the Centre for Mediation and Community Security in Iași), **Merindar** (supported by World Vision Romania in Criș).

Each NGO involved has worked to find a food hub model through which it can bring local food to the consumer's table, through a mix of direct, online and intermediated sales methods. In addition to the 4 food hubs that developed their physical and online shops in 2022, we organized promotional events for the producers and the proposed model.



"A challenging and innovative project that brings to the forefront one of the most burning issues of the next decade: food security and the survival of the small producer."

Incze Zsuzsa, Project Manager



”

In 2022:

More than **500 local producers** sold their products on the network's platforms and shops

We produced a case study/**policy paper on food hubs.**

We organized network meetings and events to promote food hubs, as well as a promotional video, which can be viewed on **www.foodhubs.ro**

Crasna - Pericei Farmers' Cooperative

Duration: 27 February 2020 - 26 November 2022

Budget: 477.534,72 RON

Financier: Agency for Rural Investment Financing (AFIR) through the Local Action Group (LAG) Valea Crasnei și Barcăului

Civitas role: Promoter

Office: Cluj-Napoca

In the framework of the project, an agricultural cooperative was set up with 8 members, farmers from the Crasna and Barcăului Valley LAG area. The associated and affiliated vegetable growers had the possibility to valorise their production through the cooperative, through the local producers' shop, as well as through the sales channels identified by the cooperative manager.

In 2022:

- We organized a **study visit for 15 people**, as well as counseling and assistance sessions in the realization of projects under the agricultural micro-grant measure.
- We ran **technical advice sessions** for farmers.
- Opened a **physical shop of local producers** in Zalău.



CoopNet 2.0 – Learning and growing together!

Duration: 1 January 2020 - 31 October 2022

Budget: 216,040 USD

Funder: Romanian-American Foundation

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: Centre for Mediation and Community Security, Romanian Centre for European Policies

Office: Cluj-Napoca

The beneficiaries of the project are 23 agricultural cooperatives (managers, presidents, members), who were able to benefit from the project activities: meetings, events, consultancy and mentoring, etc.

CoopNet is a complex programme that has gone through several development phases. We are talking about a series of steps initiated as early as 2012, with the financial support of the Romanian-American Foundation, through which we created, piloted and expanded an intervention model for the establishment and development of cooperatives.

CoopNet 2.0 - Learning and Growing Together aimed to educate and develop a community of leaders who lead established agricultural cooperatives (executive managers and presidents). We provided training courses for cooperatives in Romania and abroad: courses in project management, human and financial resources, marketing, etc. We created educational materials and offered mentoring sessions to the cooperatives in the project to help them develop. The efforts made have led to models of economically sustainable cooperatives in different fields: vegetable growing, large-scale farming, animal husbandry, etc.



Aware of the importance of funding for associative structures, we have worked to ensure the existence of a public funding scheme for cooperatives in the National Strategic Plan 2023-2027. As a result, two measures for agricultural cooperatives have been included in the final version of the Romanian CAP scheme. We also insisted on defining cooperatives as relevant actors of the social economy. As a result, in 2022, amendments were made to Law 219/2015 on the social economy, with agricultural cooperatives becoming eligible entities.

In CoopNet 2.0:

- We organized **5 training courses** for cooperative members.
- We provided **legal advice** to 5 cooperatives.
- We provided **mentoring** for 5 cooperatives.
- We organized an international **study visit to Belgium** for 12 cooperatives.
- We organized **13 launch events** which contributed to increasing the sector's acceptance and attractiveness to the general public.
- We produced more than **30 resource materials** for cooperatives: 30 videos, a legal toolkit and an online resource library for cooperatives.



Planning and evaluation of activities for the development of an agricultural advisory system

Duration: 1 January 2022 - 30 June 2023

Budget: USD 102,060

Funder: Romanian-American Foundation

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: Romanian Centre for European Policies

Office: Cluj-Napoca

This project was conceived as a pilot programme, through which to better understand the reality of agricultural advisory services at national and international level, so as to subsequently develop a more consistent programme that strategically addresses existing needs.

In order to be able to propose a viable model of agricultural consultancy in the Romanian context, we quantitatively and qualitatively assessed the needs of farmers, cooperatives and other agri-business actors through a questionnaire answered by more than 300 farmers, 40 interviews with interested actors, 3 focus group meetings and 3 agricultural consultancy pilot sessions.

In parallel, we examined examples from abroad to identify the elements that make an agricultural advisory system, whether private, public or public-private, sustainable and valued by its beneficiaries. In addition to the desk research study, in 2022, we participated in study visits to Poland and the USA, where we analyzed best practice models in the field.



"This initiative is a good example of how we think at Civitas. For large-scale change, we take things step by step, consulting with as many stakeholders as possible and looking at models that are already successful. Only then do we come up with a proposal for an intervention model that might work. We used the same strategy ten years ago with cooperatives and it proved to be a successful approach."

Árkosi Mariann, Project Manager



In 2022:

We published the study: **Problems of the agricultural advisory system in Romania**

We worked on two other research studies: **Models of agricultural advisory systems. A transnational analysis and The agricultural advisory system in Romania. Public policies versus farmers' needs.**

We assessed the needs of more than **300 farmers in the field of agricultural advisory services**

We participated in **2 international study visits**, to Poland and the USA

Organized the **first meeting on agricultural advisory services** with representatives of public institutions and relevant organizations.

Community Development Facilitator

Duration: 1 January 2018 - 30 April 2023

Budget: 43.500.000 FT

Financier: Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture

Civitas role: Promoter

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc

The project involves ensuring the presence of a community facilitator in the Odorheiu Secuiesc area. He maintained the link between the Civitas Foundation and local producers in the area, providing them with information about the opportunities they can access. The community development facilitator complemented the work of public institutions, informing producers about funding and training opportunities. The programme mainly targeted producers supplying the Helyénvaló shop and members of the Ardeal Herb Garden Association, but also supported others interested in financing opportunities in agriculture.

In 2022, through various events and information sessions, about 250 people benefited from the services of the community development facilitator.

INPACT. Integrated plant protection in response to climate change

Duration: January 2022 - December 2023

Total budget: EUR 279.857

Civitas budget: EUR 30.128

Funded by: Erasmus+ Programme

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic) - project promoter, The Agricultural University (Bulgaria), TREBAG (Hungary), ARID (Poland), Kujani (Hungary), Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece)

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc

Website: www.inpactproject.eu

The project is aimed at farmers, small producers and agricultural consultants, and aims to facilitate organic fruit and vegetable production. Through INPACT, we aim to reduce the damage caused by climate change, increase food security and improve knowledge on organic crop protection methods to reduce pesticide use.

In 2022:

- We conducted a **questionnaire to assess farmers' needs**.
- We created a set of best practices from the **5 partner countries**.
- **Generated educational materials** available online.



CORENET: Connecting advisors toward a European Network for consumer-producer chains

Duration: October 2022 - September 2027

Budget: EUR 132.225

Funded by: Horizon Europe

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: Università degli studi di Foggia (Italy), Teagasc. Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Ireland), Innovatiesteunpunt voor Landbouw en Platteland (Belgium), ISO-Tech Sp. z o.o. (Poland), Präsidentenkonferenz der Landwirtschaftskammern Österreichs (Austria), Fondazione ICONS (Italy); INRAE, l'Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (France), TREBAG Szellemi tulajdon- és Projektmenedzser Korlatolt Felelősségű Társaság (Hungary), In Loco, de Intervenção, Formação e Estudos para o Desenvolvimento Local (Portugal), Stichting Taskforce Korte Ketten (Netherlands), Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (Sweden)

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc

Website: www.shortfoodchain.eu/

Short Food Supply Chains (SFSCs) or producer-consumer chains are supply chains involving a limited number of intermediaries between farmers and consumers who are committed to cooperation, local economic development and close geographical and social links.

In the post-Covid period, SFSCs are being promoted by governments, civil society and consumer groups in many EU Member States as a means to create more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems. But SFSC initiators, participants and promoters face a fragmented knowledge landscape, compounded by a lack of clarity about the essential skills and competences in all phases from farm to fork.

The COREnet project aims to support the systematic development of more effective SFSC advice based on bringing together public, private and civic actors through peer-to-peer learning and mutual support. This approach requires interaction with agricultural consultants, farmers, consumers and a more holistic approach, with the aim of helping SFSC to achieve not only a higher market share but also a greener impact in the market. In this context, in 2022, we took stock of LSA consultants in Europe.



Helyénvaló

Duration: February 2018 - April 2024

Budget: USD 30.000

Funder: Romanian-American Foundation

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: NESsT/IKEA Accelerator

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc

Website: www.helyenvalo.ro

The Helyénvaló (Cumsecade) shop is the meeting point between small local producers and buyers, a consultancy center and a relaxation point for tourists and consumers in the area. The food hub operates as a short distribution chain through a physical shop, a webshop and participation in local events.

The aim of the Helyénvaló shop is to promote local products and small producers by keeping the food hub active. In 2022, we put more emphasis on online marketing of products through the webshop and focused our efforts on identifying business-to-business partners so that local products can reach more people.

In 2022, we managed to help 108 small local producers in the Odorhei area to reach more people with their products.

“Helyénvaló is an oasis in the desert of consumerism.”

Kolumbán Gábor, Chairman of the Board of the Civitas Foundation



Helyénvaló
H · E · L · Y · I



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

**We bring public authorities
and citizens together to design
and implement initiatives that
generate prosperity.**

Agricultural High Schools train tomorrow's farmers

Duration: 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2023

Budget: USD 300.000

Funder: Romanian - American Foundation

Civitas Role: Partner

Partners: World Vision Romania, Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE), Junior Achievement Romania (JAR)

Office: Cluj-Napoca

The project **Agricultural High Schools Prepare Tomorrow's Farmers** is part of the **Growing through Agricultural Education** program, which started in 2016 and focused on implementing study visit programs for students from 8 agricultural high schools in Romania. Today, we support 4 types of programs in agricultural high schools: internships, study visits, high school promotion campaigns and agriculture 4.0.

In 2022, 28 projects were supported through grants: 4 internship projects, 13 promotion projects and 11 study visit projects. These projects are implemented by 16 high schools and the grants awarded for their implementation are almost \$42,000.

In addition to the grants, we have developed two kits for agricultural high schools with recommendations and tools for organizing internships and study visits. These resource materials are applicable to all agricultural high schools, whether they want to access grants or decide to implement these activities on their own. We also support teachers in agricultural secondary schools through trainings and webinars.

*„Dezvoltarea învățământului agricol reprezintă o direcție de **The development of agricultural education is a strategic development direction for our foundation. For almost 9 years, we have been actively involved in the field of agricultural education and we support agricultural high schools in Romania so that they can offer a quality education to their students. We strongly believe that, in order to grow qualified farmers, it is important that agricultural high schools develop a relevant and good quality educational offer.**”*

Alexandra Nae, Project Manager



2022 in figures

- **28 grants** to agricultural high schools for the organization of study visits, internships and promotion.
- **82 teachers** from agricultural high schools created learning opportunities for their students.
- **226 pupils** participated in the activities of the high schools' projects.
- We organized **2 trainings for teachers from agricultural high schools** on the organization of internships and study visits.
- We launched **2 tools that reached 57 agricultural high schools** in the country: the Kit for organizing practical training periods and the Kit for organizing study visits.
- We contributed with a proposal for the drafting of the funding guide under the National Recovery and Resilience

RuralNet

Duration: 15 February 2021 - 14 February 2024

Total budget: EUR 249.987,70

Civitas budget: EUR 142.583,55

Funded by the Active Citizens Fund Romania Programme, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants 2014-2021.

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: Community Mediation and Security Centre (CMSC), Foundation for the Development of Social Economy (FDES), IRECOOP (Norway)

Office: Cluj-Napoca

RuralNet is the network of NGOs active in Romania in the field of community development. Through this network, we aim to increase the quality of services provided by member organizations and to harness their skills and resources, RuralNet being based on expertise in community development and rural development.

The year 2022 has been an eventful year dedicated to the RuralNet community. There have been meetings of network members, trainings on topics such as project management and social entrepreneurship, and two workshops to lay the foundations for future policy briefs, which we hope will help raise awareness of the importance of community development.

RuralNet - the network of organizations active in community development in Romania!



Partnership for the development of smart administration in Cojocna Commune

Duration: 27 July 2022 - 27 September 2023

Budget: 416.186,58 RON

Financier: Project co-financed by the European Social Fund, through the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity 2014-2020

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: Municipality of Cojocna

Office: Cluj-Napoca

Beneficiaries: Young people aged 15 to 17 involved in agricultural vocational training (T-VET) programmes in Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia and Italy

The beneficiaries of the project are 20 employees of Cojocna Town Hall, 20 employees of NGOs and 20 employees and volunteers of Civitas Foundation.

Within the project, local authorities and NGO representatives from Cojocna will be familiarized with smart concepts, participate in fact-finding visits to Ciugud, the promoter of the Smart Village concept in Romania, create a fundraising strategy for smart initiatives in the commune and implement at least one smart initiative in the community.

The aim of the project is to promote smart development in Cojocna commune by creating a Local Development Fund, developing a mechanism to involve NGOs and citizens in the community and in the decision-making process, and identifying smart initiatives for the development of a smart administration.

From July to December 2022, experts from the Civitas Foundation familiarized themselves with the concepts of smart communities and documented them so that the project could be replicated in other communities.

“Just as we need infrastructure and investment in concrete structures, it is also necessary to get closer to the community, to support and promote any smart initiative. Cojocna needs a mechanism to encourage the active participation of citizens in the community, a gradual transition to participatory budgeting, and the first such exercise will be done through this very project.”

Sorin Ranga, Mayor of Cojocna Commune

”



Partnership to run work-based learning programs for students in tourism

Duration: September 2020 - October 2023

Budget: 2.405.362,31 RON

Financier: European Social Fund through POCU 2014-2020

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: Develo - Consult SRL Odorheiu Secuiesc

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc



Through this project, we aimed to facilitate the labor market insertion of future upper secondary school graduates in the field of tourism and catering, through professional counseling and ensuring participation in internships at a potential workplace.

The target group consists of 184 upper secondary students. These students study in the less developed area of the Central region of Romania, i.e. Harghita county, and are students in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades of high schools and vocational schools with specializations related to tourism.

In 2022, all **184 young people took part in the personal profile analysis**, by completing the Thomas-type tests, carried out by the Civitas team.

"A beneficial project for students, but also for Civitas! This is because we are continuously professionalizing the personal development of young people with the Thomas test method, a test that is increasingly sought after by educational and social institutions, as well as the business world."

Orbán Árpád, Project Manager



Future Builders. Active learning at work through commercial apprenticeships

Duration: October 2020 - February 2023

Budget: RON 2.349.237,49

Financier: European Social Fund through POCU 2014-2020

Civitas role: Partner

Partners: ADI Harghita Business Center (HBC)

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc

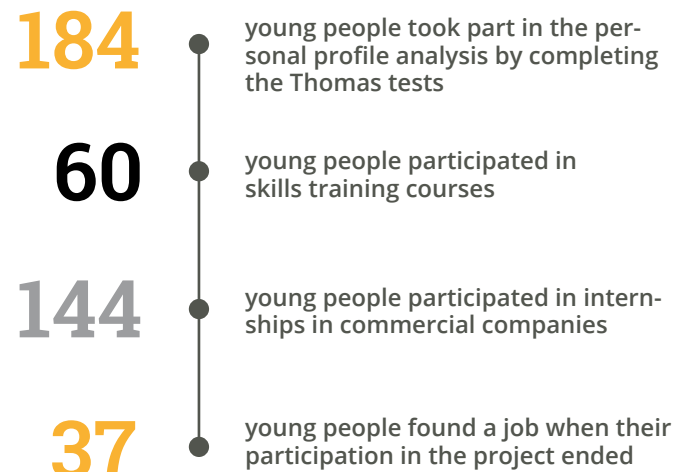
Through Future Builders, we aim to facilitate the labor market insertion of future upper secondary school graduates in the retail sector. We do this by providing career counseling and ensuring participation in apprenticeship programmes at a potential workplace.

"At one point, one of the students, after going through his personal profile report, asked our fellow counselor in wonder, "Did you talk to my mom?" The fact that the Thomas tests, which we use in our counseling activities, are an excellent means of measuring personality was confirmed to us once again!"

Kis Zoltán, Project Manager



The project's target group included 184 students, of which:



Children on the farm

Duration: June 2022 - November 2022

Budget: RON 6.641

Financier: Harghita County Council, Municipality of Odorheiu Secuiesc

Civitas role: Promoter

Office: Odorheiu Secuiesc

We believe in the importance of educating children about how food is produced, that's why we have decided to visit farms with them, where they can learn about the development cycles of plants and animals.

With funding from the Harghita County Council (2,145 lei) and the Municipality of Odorheiu Secuiesc (4,496 lei), we managed to organize two farm visits with **29 pupils** from grades I to VIII in Odorheiu Secuiesc, some of them from a socially vulnerable group. Together, we visited the **Sólyom Major-Gut Falkenhof Farm**, where children's camps take place during the summer, and the **Caritas Rural Development Educational Farm** in Gheorgheni. Together with the specialists at the farm, the children learnt about how food is produced, but also had practical experiences by participating in the daily activities on

the farm. The pupils also learned more about environmental issues and how they affect food production.

In addition to the farm visit, we made two educational videos about animal care, plant cultivation and food processing. This way, more students will be able to learn about what farmers and producers are like.

The videos were watched by children both in groups at school and individually. Many of them had never been to a farm before and were impressed to see how the animals and plants are cared for and how the food they eat every day is produced. Through these small activities, we want to educate the younger generation so that children become responsible and aware adult consumers.



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

**We encourage the transfer of
good practice and partnerships in
civil society.**

Small NGOs today, sustainable NGOs tomorrow

Duration: 1 January 2022 - 30 September 2023

Budget: EUR 100.000

Funder: Active Citizens Fund Romania Programme, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants 2014-2021

Civitas role: Promoter

Partners: Norsensus Mediaforum (Oslo, Norway)

Office: Cluj-Napoca

Through the project Small NGOs today, sustainable NGOs tomorrow, we aimed to increase the financial sustainability of 15 small NGOs (with budgets under 51.000 EUR) in Romania by improving their fundraising and advocacy skills.

As part of the project, a team of fundraising and communication specialists produced a fundraising, communication and crowdfunding guide for small NGOs. The organizations were also provided with the necessary tools to increase their financial capacity and diversify their funding sources. The materials developed were used both in the online and in-person courses for small NGOs, which took place in the summer of 2022, and during the one-to-one mentoring sessions the organizations received. Experts from the project team provided support to NGOs in the design and implementation of two fundraising campaigns and in the preparation of a crowdfunding campaign, which will run on the **Grow Ideas** platform, starting in spring 2023.

In 2022:

- 15 NGOs participated in a fundraising and communication course.
- 15 NGOs attended a Visual and Transmedia Storytelling course run by Norwegian partner Norsensus Mediaforum.
- 15 NGOs participated in fundraising and communication mentoring sessions and carried out fundraising campaigns for their social impact projects.



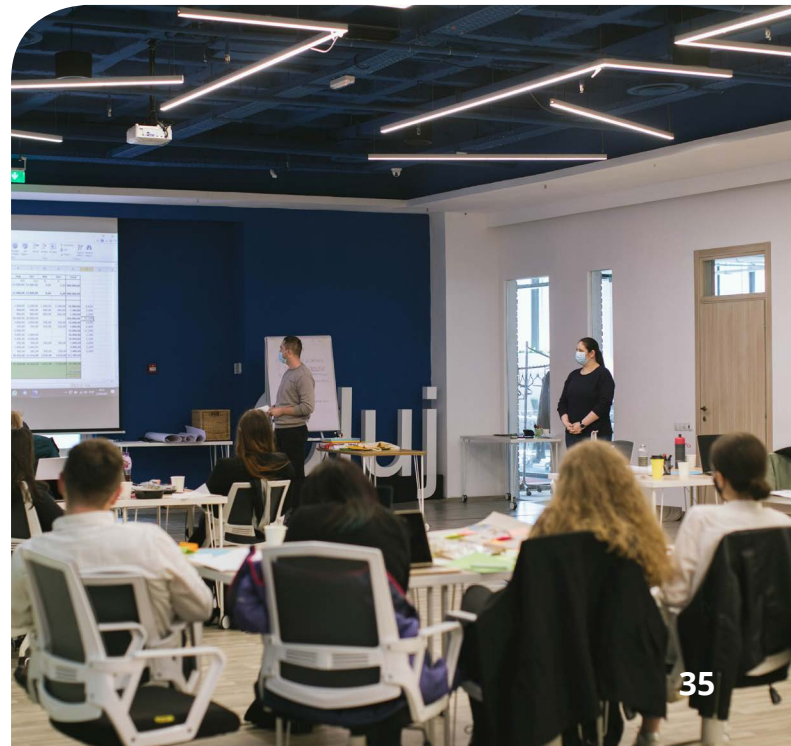
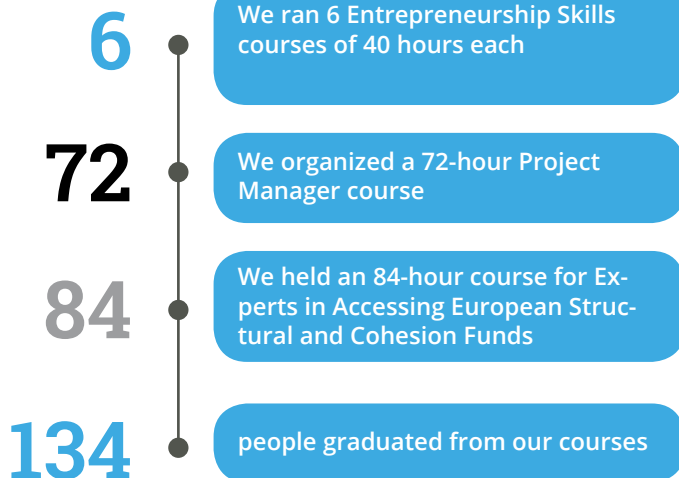
Civitas – Training provider

We believe in the power of know-how transfer, so in order to pass on the experience we have gained over the years, we have decided to authorize the Civitas Foundation as a training provider. In this way, we are able to reach more people, who in turn have a positive impact in their communities. We offer courses corresponding to the 7 types of training programmes for which we are authorized by the National Qualifications Authority:

- **Community Development Facilitator**
- **Entrepreneurial, financial and legal skills**
- **Expert in accessing cohesion and structural funds**
- **Social economy entrepreneur**
- **Project manager**
- **Project evaluator**
- **Digital skills to use information technology as a learning and knowledge tool**

After completing the program, our trainees obtain a nationally and internationally recognized certificate, thus enriching their professional portfolio. We design the courses to be as practical as possible, with real-life examples to help learners in their daily lives and help them achieve tangible results.

In 2022:



MENTORED ORGANIZATIONS

Civitas Consulting was founded in 2008 by the Civitas Foundation for Civil Society, with business consulting as its main field of activity. The company's profits are directed to the foundation, supporting the realization of projects for local and civil society development.



For Civitas Consulting, the year 2022 meant:

57

funding applications submitted: for **30 public beneficiaries** (for the Administration of the Environment Fund (AFM) Programme, National Recovery and Resilience Plan, National Rural Development Programme) and **27 private beneficiaries** (for the National Rural Development Programme, Woman Entrepreneur, Startup Nation, Grants for the Agro-Food Sector)

37

projects under implementation for **11 private beneficiaries** and **26 public beneficiaries**

4

Public procurement consultancy services for **4 procurement procedures**

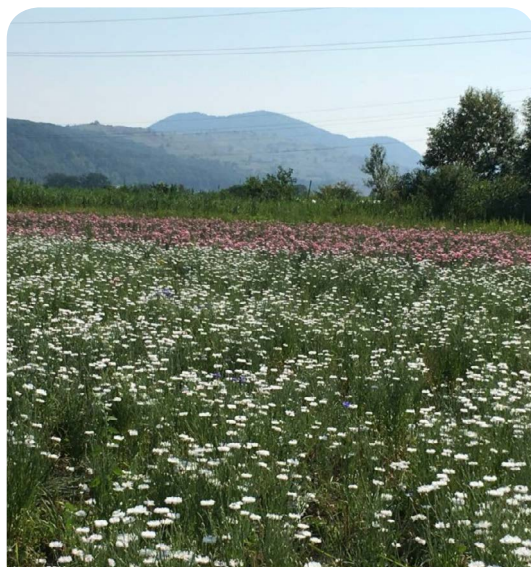


Medicinal Herb Garden

The Medicinal Plant Garden was established in 2017 by the Civitas Foundation in Odorheiu Secuiesc. The aim of the garden is to support and promote the sustainable cultivation, collection and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants. Thus, the association contributes to the protection of the environment and enhances the value of the intangible heritage of Transylvania (in the field of traditional gastronomy, folk medicine, etc.), by reviving traditions regarding the use of medicinal and aromatic plants.

In 2022, we set up a Naturist Workshop at the Odorheiu Secuiesc working point, where we organize regular workshops on the processing of medicinal plants. We also organized an exchange of experience to visit producers and processors of medicinal plants, we made 3 films about personalities with significant activity in the field of medicinal plants, we were present at various festivals and events with the mobile workshop and we organized community events at the Odorheiu Secuiesc working point and at the members of the association. In collaboration with the University Centre of Odorheiu Secuiesc, we organized a cultivation, collection and processing of medicinal plants.

For the Herb Garden, 2022 meant:



Riding center for the partnership of generations in the village of Dârjiu

Slow down to 1 horsepower!

The riding center aims to bring more well-being to a small community - Dârjiu, but famous for its UNESCO World Heritage listed church-city. Located next to the famous church, it aims to contribute both to the economic development of the locality and to solving a social problem - the lack of primary social services for the elderly.

The social aim of the riding center is to set up a day center for socializing and leisure for the elderly in the village of Dârjiu, which will provide primary social services aimed at preventing and limiting situations of difficulty or vulnerability that can lead to marginalization or social exclusion. The financing of these social activities is ensured through the economic activity carried out by the Kanthaka Association (certified social enterprise), through the Riding Centre with recreation and socialization programmes for all generations.

In 2022, about 120 families with disadvantaged children and more than 30 elderly people in the locality benefited from the services financed through the work of the riding center.



FINANCIAL RESULTS

Financial results

Financial report for 2021

Civitas Foundation for Civil Society

Revenue (RON)

Total Revenue	6,857,300	1,079,618
Funding/grants from public sources	5,511,861	737,910
Funding/grants from private sources	1,035,468	208,011
Donations, sponsorships from individuals and companies, interest	38,016	44,928
Income from economic activities	68,868	0
Dividends	133,525	0
Other income	69,562	88,769

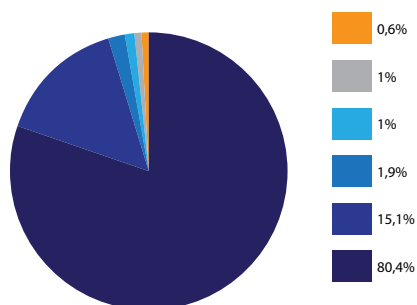
Expenses (RON)

Total expenditure	6,822,778	882,891
Expenditure on project implementation	6,315,210	779,888
Administrative expenditure	507,568	103,003
Net result (RON)	34,552	196,727

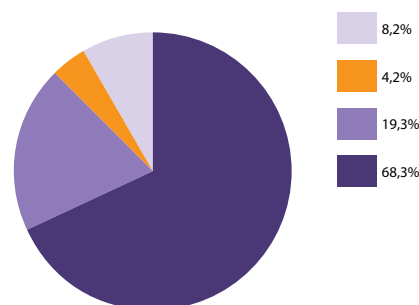
Cluj-Napoca

Odorheiu Secuiesc

Revenue Cluj-Napoca



Income Odorheiu Secuiesc



- Funding/grants from public sources
- Funding/grants from private sources
- Donations, sponsorships from individuals and companies, interest
- Income from economic activities
- Dividends
- Other income

- Funding/grants from public sources
- Funding/grants from private sources
- Donations, sponsorships from individuals and companies, interest
- Other income

PARTNERS

National partners

- Workshops without Borders Association
- Center for Nonprofit Law Association (CNLR)
- GAL Țara Năsăudului Association
- Monomyths Association
- Community Mediation and Security Centre (CMSC)
- Romanian Centre for European Policies (CRPE)
- Develo - Consult SRL Odorheiu Secuiesc
- Danis Foundation for Management Development
- HEKS/EPER Romania Foundation
- Open Fields Foundation
- Foundation for the Development of Social Economy
- Junior Achievement Romania (JAR)
- World Vision Romania
- 23 FILM STUDIO & MEDIA SRL

International partners

- ATavo Europa Association (Lithuania)
- Materahub Cultural and Creative Industries Consortium (Matera, Italy)
- Diesis Network (Brussels, Belgium)
- Group for Entrepreneurship and Social Economy (Greece)
- FURIM Institutt (Norway)
- IRECOOP (Italy)
- Norsensus Mediaforum (Norway)
- Nuorisokeskus Piispala (Finland)
- Projects ehf (Iceland)
- Sdruzhenie Walk Together (Bulgaria)
- Terram Pacis (Norway)
- NESsT/IKEA Accelerator
- University of Foggia (Italy)
- Teagasc. Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Ireland)
- Innovatiesteunpunt voor Landbouw en Platteland (Belgium)
- ISO-Tech Sp. z o.o. (Poland)
- Präsidentenkonferenz der Landwirtschaftskammern Österreichs (Austria)
- ICONS Foundation (Italy)
- INRAE, Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (France)
- TREBAG Szellemi tulajdon- és Projektmenedzser Korlatolt Felelossegu Tarsaag (Hungary)
- In Loco, de Intervenção, Formação e Estudos para o Desenvolvimento Local (Portugal)
- Stichting Taskforce Korte Keten (Netherlands)
- Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (Sweden)
- Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (Czech Republic)
- Agricultural University (Bulgaria)
- TREBAG (Hungary)
- ARID (Poland)
- Kujani (Hungary)
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece)
- Synthesis Center for Research and Education Limited (Nicosia, Cyprus)



Civitas

Fundația - Alapítvány - Foundation

Annual Report 2022

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