Asociația OVIDIU RO

Fiecare copil în grădiniță

ANNUAL REPORT

2011 RESULTS 2012 ACTIVITIES 2020 OBJECTIVES



Original Photo: Daniel Vrăbioiu

WITHOUT EDUCATION DREAMS VANISH

MAJOR INVESTORS IN FIECARE COPIL ÎN GRĂDINIȚĂ

Why We Are Committed to Getting Every Poor Child in Preschool

The *Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță* program ('every child in preschool & kindergarten') has had a dramatic impact in the 20 communities where the local authorities have implemented it. In the 2011-2012 school year, 85% of the 1400 children in the program received food coupons for their regular attendance.

We have demonstrated that getting every child in *grădiniță* is not difficult and it is not expensive – but it has to be done *all across the country* to have an impact on the Romanian economy and society. That is not a task for a smattering of NGOs alone, that is the job of the government and civil society.

The following elements are essential to reach more children (and can easily be scaled up):

1. **Leadership of local authorities**
2. **Food coupons to poor uneducated parents, used as incentives**
3. **Adequate educational materials & basic clothing**
4. **Quality teacher training**
5. **Long-term strategic investment in early education**

None of the other typical 'interventions' – after-school programs, summer schools, quotas for minorities, job training for adults – can make much difference if a person's intellectual capacity has been stunted in early childhood. All the experts agree on this – yet our society spends far more public money on later interventions than on the early nurturing of children who are at high risk of dropping out of school – and ultimately becoming a burden on society.

Today, OvidiuRo relies on the corporate sector and individual philanthropists to enable some of Romania's most disadvantaged children to have the benefits of early mental invigoration. Our goal is to spur the Romanian government to enable every poor community to get "every child in *grădiniță*" – at the very latest, by 2020. This is an eminently realistic goal -- if society *wants* to educate all its children.

We count on you to help make this goal reality.

EARLY EDUCATION IS NOT A VACCINE BUT THE NECESSARY FOUNDATION ON WHICH ALL OTHER EDUCATIONAL MEASURES DEPEND

Maria Gheorghiu

Leslie Hawke



© Davin Ellicson



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OvidiuRo's mission is to get every poor child in Romania into the education system as early as possible so they have a chance to become active, contributing members of society.


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THE AMBASSADORS' EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

was formed by nine ambassadors to Romania in support of early education for all - as the foundation for building a competitive European Workforce in the decades to come

22 April 2012

We, the undersigned Ambassadors to Romania, wish to affirm our belief in the paramount importance of early education as the underpinning of any initiative or strategy dedicated to the betterment of excluded groups in Europe, with special regard to the Roma Minority. *Again and again, early education has been shown to be the most cost-effective educational expenditure a society can make.*

Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman argues that investing in early education leads to a range of social benefits: higher incomes, a more productive workforce, greater economic growth, lower crime rates and tax savings. "You can make a very powerful argument for early enrichment solely on the basis of hard-boiled cost-benefit analyses," Heckman writes.

In a yet-to-be-published report, the World Bank urges Eastern European countries to address the preschool gap between Roma and other children because of the "large and positive correlations found between Roma preschool participation and a host of learning and later life outcomes."

The European Commission has repeatedly urged member states to "invest more in pre-primary education as the basis for further learning, preventing school drop-outs, and increasing equity of outcomes". **Future European Social Fund allocations addressing school abandonment must focus on early education - scaling up strategies that have been proven to increase participation of Roma children in pre-primary education.**

This past January, we created "The Ambassadors' Early Education Initiative 2012-2020" in support of the strategy originated by Asociația OvidiuRo called ***Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță***. This constellation of interventions (including leadership of local authorities, teacher training, classroom materials, and parent incentives) gives technical support to local communities to "get every child in preschool", and provides the financial means to cover incentives for daily attendance. The program gives local communities considerable autonomy and provides a budget to teachers to purchase educational materials of their choice. Most importantly, it gives poor parents a financial incentive (in the form of food coupons "tichete sociale") for bringing their young children to school every day. The results are dramatic and immediate.

We urge the corporate, government and media sectors of Romania to make broadening access to high-quality early childhood programs to the poorest children a national priority. More than any other single measure, early education promotes healthy brain development and prepares children for success in school – essential ingredients for building a competitive work force for Europe's future prosperity and wellbeing.

Michael Schwarzinger, Austria
Ulla Vaisto, Finland
Andreas von Mettenheim, Germany
Mario Cospito, Italy
Matthijs van Bonzel, The Netherlands

Estanislao de Grandes Pascual, Spain
Jean-Hubert Lebet, Switzerland
Martin Harris, United Kingdom
Mark H Gitenstein, United States of America

ROMANIA: KINDERGARTEN SEEN AS KEY TO FIGHT ROMA POVERTY

"Storks and swallows," the kindergarteners cry out when asked what birds arrive in springtime, then proudly count to 20 - unaware they are part of an experiment to help Roma children beat the odds of a life mired in poverty.

By Isabelle Wesselingh
AFP – Tue, Apr 3, 2012

"The class might seem unremarkable but in Romania early schooling is now seen as an important step to fight the vicious circle of poverty-school-failure-poverty", Szilard Dullo, the director of the school in Araci, told AFP. The idea is simple: poor children who attend kindergarten enter primary school better prepared, with the same skills as other youngsters, which reduces their chance of failing.

This central Romanian village was the first to try out the idea in 2010, developed by a non-governmental organisation, OvidiuRo, in partnership with the local community. It has seen kindergarten enrolment more than double in two years, from 89 children to 190 today.

Romania has the EU's highest poverty rate for children under 18 - almost 49% according to figures published by the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) in February. This compares to 27% in the EU as a whole.

"**There are a lot of parallels between what happened in the US with black Americans and what is happening in Romania with the Roma**", said Mark Gitenstein, US Ambassador to Romania, citing the "devastating legacy of slavery". Like blacks in the south US, Romania's Roma were reduced to slavery and emancipated only in 1856. Many still live in dire poverty, as in Araci and the neighbouring hamlet of Hetea where they occupy wooden shacks without running water or sanitation and often only a plastic sheet for roofing.

Typical are Costel, 5, and Abel, 6, who live with their two older brothers and parents, in a one-room hut. Their mother, Aurica, painted it yellow and decorated it with flower garlands. The youngsters sleep in the same bed and wash in a bucket of cold water their mother fetches at a nearby pump, sometimes waiting for an hour behind other families queuing for water. Neither parent has a steady job and the family survives on social benefits, like 1,600 of the 4,000 people living in Araci and nearby villages.

"Since going to school, the boys are better behaved." said Aurica. "They even know some poems. I hope they have a better life than we do."

A monetary incentive has helped the program, as has involving Roma parents, many of whom were forced to leave school early and remain illiterate. A food coupon of about 12 € a month ($15) is given to families living below the poverty level for each child who attends kindergarten daily -- a measure that has led to average 89% attendance records. The expenses are covered by donations from corporations and private persons.

"You can't build a house without a foundation, and in education, kindergarten is the foundation," said Maria Gheorghiu, a Romanian education specialist who founded OvidiuRo with American Leslie Hawke, who came to Romania as a US Peace Corps volunteer in 2001 and stayed on.

"If all children get the same opportunity from the beginning, the chances to succeed in school will grow," Gheorghiu told AFP. She and Hawke launched "Every kid in the kindergarten", as the program is called, in 2010.

Today, 1,400 poor children in 20 villages across the country take part in the program, which the founders hope will be implemented elsewhere. In addition to special teacher training, OvidiuRo asks parents to attend a lesson and a school activity or meeting at least once a month.

"Some parents were afraid of school; now we have a better relation with them. They see what their children are doing and they come with ideas and proposals," said Dullo, who has taught in Araci for two decades. Teacher Iuliana Pârgaru agreed. "Before coming here, I was told that Roma parents don't care about school, but on the contrary they do everything they can to help."

Roma children in Araci had a 50% failure rate prior to the program's start.

"In the south of the United States where I come from, we also heard things like, 'blacks don't want to go to school', but today we have an African-American president who went to Harvard," said Ambassador Gitenstein. "I believe that one day there will a be a Roma president in Romania".

www.ovid.ro/ News/ TV/ France Presse, April 2012 – Kindergarten is key to fight Roma poverty

ARACI: A TYPICAL RURAL VILLAGE


© Oana Livadariu

About 70% of Araci's 2120 inhabitants are severely impoverished, functionally illiterate Roma living in one or two-room un-insulated wood and mud structures. The families endure a combination of cramped, substandard housing, limited access to social, financial and health services, virtually no infrastructure (the streets are just rutted pathways), and geographic isolation. Most adults have not completed the primary education cycle of 4 grades. The boys often start to work in the fields at the age of 11 or 12 and thereafter never return to school.

Araci is 15 kilometres from Brașov, but a world apart. The partnership between OvidiuRo, the Araci kindergarten and the Vâlcele Comuna Town Hall began in September 2010. A door-to-door recruitment drive brought over 90% of the Araci children aged 4-6 to preschool, overwhelming the meagre kindergarten facility. The Town Hall was paying rent to the Reform Church for an old high-ceilinged, soba-heated 3-room building without toilet facilities. The school director, Szilard Dullo, solved a part of the space problem by transforming a stockroom into a classroom and adding an afternoon session. Still, the 3 years olds had to be turned away due to space constraints.

The teachers, most of whom hold temporary positions, had received scant training prior to OvR's involvement. The local budget is extremely tight since there is so little commerce or industry. Despite these hurdles, the Araci program was an outstanding success from the beginning due to the exceptional leadership of Mr. Dullo. Araci had both the most children and the highest daily attendance rate (95% last school year) of all the FCG programs. The local authorities are now renovating space to accommodate all of Araci's pre-schoolers by September 2012.

Last spring, OvidiuRo extended the program in a nearby village, Hetea, located six kilometres up an unpaved road. Here, 100% of the 489 inhabitants live in extreme poverty.

In 2002, a Dutch NGO, Pro Roma Foundation, started a private kindergarten in Hetea, as the public kindergarten had been dissolved by the County School Inspectorate in 1998. The two-room facility functioned with two teachers. Pro Roma provided school supplies and a daily snack in addition to the usual *corn și lapte* (bread and dairy products) allocation. ***All 50 village preschool children were registered, but only half came regularly***.

Following the introduction of ***Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță***, **daily attendance suddenly grew to 90%**. To meet the demand, Pro Roma renovated and equipped another classroom and the School Inspectorate assigned another teacher.

Even though the *grădinița* is two kilometres from their homes and this past winter was particularly harsh, food coupons motivate parents to send their children every day. **In both Araci and Hetea, the number of children attending preschool increased dramatically as a result to *FCG***.
(*See ProTV news from April 2011 at www.ovid.ro/News/TV*)

IMPACT IN GRĂDINIȚA ARACI



GRĂDINIȚA REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE


© Elena Mocăniță


© Ioana Mihalache

School director, Szilard Dullo reports that last year's kindergarteners who are now in first grade have an unprecedented attendance rate and their adjustment has been noticeably easier than usual. "**Parents' involvement in school has increased a lot. I attribute this to their monthly Parents' Day activities**." Both parents' attitudes towards education and teachers' attitudes toward the poor parents improved. Teachers were iniatially wary about having parents around, but already they are observing the benefits of parent involvement.

Direct beneficiaries:

- Araci: 142 children, age 4-6
- Hetea: 47 children, age 3-6
- Total: 189 children

Indirect beneficiaries:

- 10 teachers trained in progressive methods
- 16 local team members involved in project
- 160 parents introduced to the value of early education & an extra 50 lei per month for their children's food.

„Șotron": introducing preschool in sippy cups

This optional FCG module invites parents to participate with their children, some as young as 2, in a weekly two-hour class. In the spring of 2011, 14 mothers in Araci took advantage of the program. There is no monetary incentive for attendance, but with the encouragement of the FCG team, parents and grandparents start to bring their toddlers once a week. This results in a striking improvement in parents' attitudes about their children's readiness for organized group activities and helps the little ones prepare for every day *grădiniță* next year.

What We Have Learned

1) Parent incentives lead to a major increase in *grădiniță* attendance.

Popular opinion places the blame on parent negligence for poor children's weak academic results and soaring school abandonment rates. The families in Vâlcele tell a different story. In September 2010, with encouragement from the local authorities, appropriate clothes and shoes, and an incentive worth a mere 12€ a month, over 100 parents brought their children to *grădiniță* regularly. The year before, 28 children out of 100, were registered, but attendance was sporadic.


© Daniel Mihăilescu, AFP

2) Teacher training & resources make learning easier.

Preschool teachers receive 15€ per child from OvidiuRo to spend as they see fit on classroom materials. "The teachers don't have to use money from their own pockets to equip their classrooms anymore", noted Mr. Dullo. Teacher training in methods designed to open children's minds and prepare them for primary school is a cornerstone of OvidiuRo's strategy.


© OvR Archive

3) Accurate record-keeping is essential.

Keeping accurate daily attendance records has not been standard practice for *grădiniță* teachers in the past so it requires the formation of new habits. The OvidiuRo team of certified social workers and teachers visits the schools frequently. They consult with the local coordinator, assist the teachers, check attendance records and randomly visit participating families in their homes. The donation of phones by Orange has helped increase communication between OvidiuRo team, teachers, social workers and parents.


© Narcisa Covaci

4) Local authorities must drive the process.

No matter how dedicated a teacher is, if she doesn't have support from the school director and the mayor, it will be very difficult to manage the FCG multi-layered methodology on her own. The project implementation involves a variety of stakeholders who have not necessarily worked together before. OvidiuRo guides the development of a strong local action group using a step-by-step implementation guide. (See page 10 for more details)


© Nadia Gavrilă

EVOLUTION OF A "SCALEABLE" SOLUTION


© Sonia Weiss

2001 Peace Corps Volunteer Leslie Hawke and Soros-trained master teacher Maria Gheorghiu, under the auspices of the **Fundația de Sprijin Comunitar**, obtain a USAID grant to address the large number of impoverished children in Bacău, România who are not in school. They start 1) a work-training program for 15 mothers whose children are begging (based on **The Doe Fund's Ready, Willing & Able** welfare-to-work program in New York) and 2) an education program for the women's children.

2002 Hawke and Gheorghiu discover that for every child on the street begging, there are 2 or 3 siblings languishing at home, not attending school. Education program grows to 60 children. Citibank pays for an extra teacher.

2003 Education program expands to two more schools – in Buhuși and Izvoare.

2004 Hawke and Gheorghiu found Asociația OvidiuRo and begin a Mothers Program in Bucharest. Rompetrol provides critical matching funds.

2005 OvidiuRo starts education program at School 141 in Bucharest for the many children in Rahova who are not in school. OvR is accredited by the Ministry of Education to implement the **Second Chance** school reintegration curriculum.

2006 Hawke and Gheorghiu start the ***Fiecare Copil în Școală*** initiative to get *every* child in Romania in school. They set 2020 as their deadline for accomplishing this. When USAID phases out its operations in Romania. OvR obtains critical support from ProTV, Connex (now Vodafone), and Rompetrol to keep the programs going.

2007 **1700** children (60 schools, 8 counties) participate in OvR's summer School Preparation programs. OvR pilots the use of food coupons linked to student attendance in Vizurești, Dâmbovița.

2008 **4400** children attend OvR's summer programs. OvR circulates a White Paper which recommends a dozen measures to reverse the negative trend in poor children's school attainment and achievement.


© Sonia Weiss


© Sonia Weiss

2009 In reviewing children's outcomes in Bacău and Bucharest, Hawke and Gheorghiu observe that many of the older children who entered or re-entered school ***have not stayed*** in school – but their younger siblings are doing much better. OvR begins to phase out its Second Chance programs and focus on preschool age children.

2010 Hawke and Gheorghiu decide to concentrate exclusively on early education – linking food coupons to kindergarten attendance. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, OvR invites mayors across Romania to apply for a grant to help get every poor child in preschool. "***Fiecare Copil în GRĂDINIȚĂ***" is launched for 4-6 year olds in 13 new communities.

2011 OvR expands program to include 1400 children in 20 communities, 12 counties. A long-term goal is set: to turn the parent incentive program into national public policy by 2020.

2012 **The Ambassadors' Early Education Initiative 2012-2020** is launched urging the corporate, government and media sectors to make early education a national priority.

Commendations for OvidiuRo's solution

"The long-term answer is schooling, where the cards are subtly stacked against Romanies... [OvidiuRo] runs an impressive scheme that pays €12 in food coupons to parents whose children attend school... The project is based on poverty, rather than ethnicity."[1]

The Economist, September 18, 2010

"OvidiuRo's programs respect the principles of equity and quality and support the polices of the Ministry."

Liliana Preoteasa, Ministry of Education, August 2012

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI CERCETĂRII TINERETULUI ȘI SPORTULUI

"Preschool participation can be increased through a combination of three policy measures (financial incentives, information to parents, social mediation), ***all of which are included in FCG***."[2]

Senior Economist Joost de Laat, September 2011

Supported by research

"Impoverished early experiences reduce life-long brain capabilities, which is why most impoverished children always lag behind their peers."[3]

Center for the Developing Child, Harvard, 2007

"Early education is KEY to reducing school drop-outs and even crime rates."[4]

W. Steven Barnett, Rutgers University, 2008

"Early education programs have the highest return on investment of any intervention."[5]

Economist James Heckman, 2006

"Member States should invest more in pre-primary education as the basis for further learning, preventing school drop-outs, and increasing equity of outcomes."[6]

European Commission Communication, 2006

[1] http://www.economist.com/node/17043366

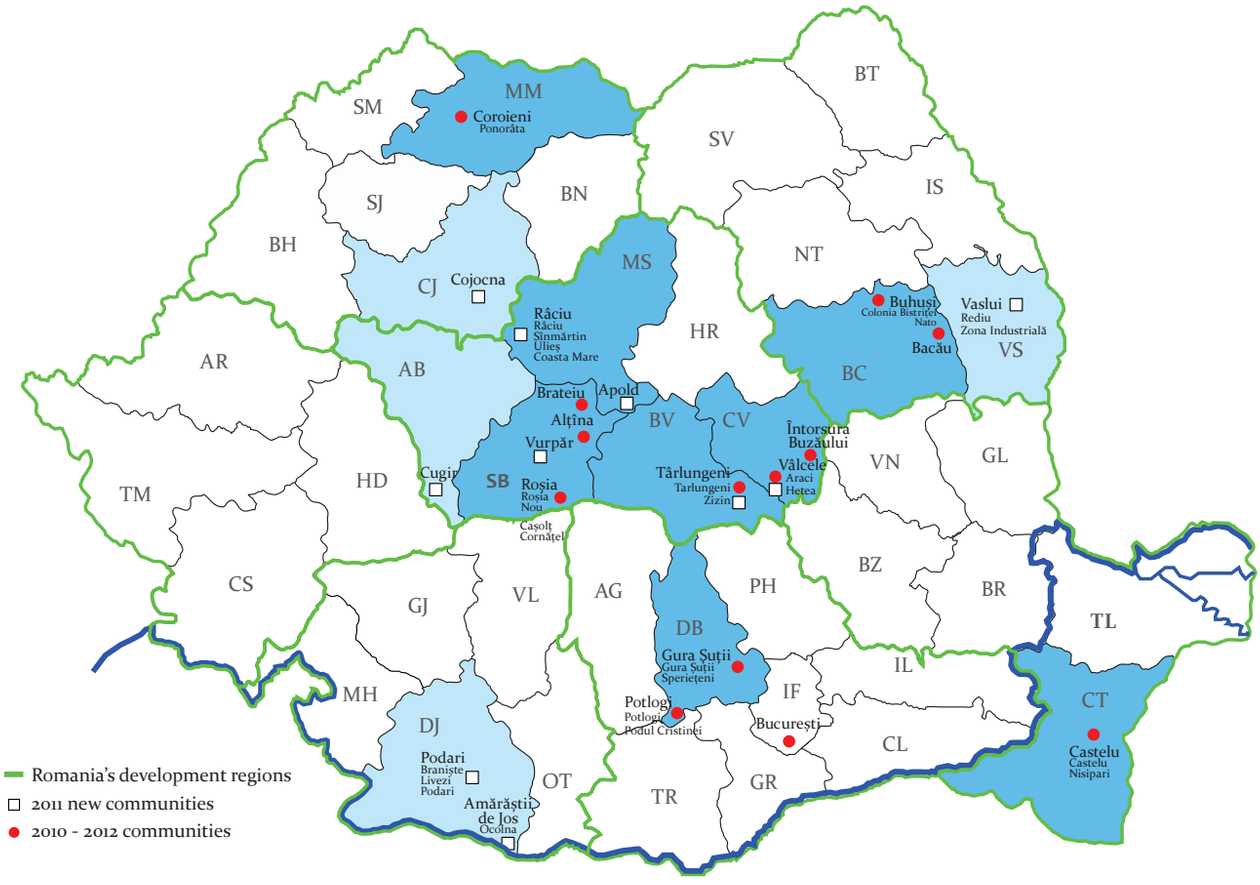
[2] http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTROMA/Resources/RomaECD_FinalReport.pdf

[3] "The Timing and Quality of Early Experiences Combine to Shape Brain Architecture", Center for the Developing Child, Harvard University http://developingchild.harvard.edu/library/reports_and_working_papers/working_papers/wp5/

[4] "Preschool Education and Its Lasting Effects: Research and Policy Implications", W. Steven Barnett, Rutgers University, Sept 2008

[5] James Heckman, economist, Nobel Prize Laureat www.heckmanequation.org

[6] Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament: Efficiency and equity in European education and training systems, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0481:FIN:EN:PDF



A YEAR IN THE TRAINING & MANAGEMENT LIFE OF *FIECARE COPIL ÎN GRĂDINIȚĂ*

The local FCG coordinators receive no extra compensation for this project (which requires extra time, energy and responsibility on their part), so meetings are designed to recognize their contributions as well as improve their teaching and management skills.

January 2011: 2-day meeting in Bucharest for local coordinators to clarify the role of each person in the local implementation team and discuss challenges.

May 2011: Master teacher trainer **Betsy Grob** from New York's Bank Street College of Education provides onsite teacher training, thanks to OvidiuRo's American partner, The Alex Fund. (See ProTV News video from training May 2011 trip on www.ovid.ro/News/TV.)

July-August 2011: Summer 'Preparation Programs' for 3120 children (1110 preschool children) conducted by 315 OvR trained teachers.

August 2011: Three-day meeting for 23 coordinators in Straja, Hunedoara, designed to clarify the methodology and find common solutions to problems encountered the previous school year.

August 31 2011: National FCG Conference of mayors, school directors and county school inspectors. State Secretary **Oana Badea** attends, providing the opportunity for people from rural communities to directly address their concerns to a Secretary of State. American Ambassador **Mark Gitenstein** hosts a reception at his residence to honour the local educators. The mayors and school directors are joined by several CEOs of major companies. Minister of Education **Daniel Funeriu** commends the project for its results-oriented approach.

January 2012: 3-day annual meeting in Bucharest made possible by the **Athenee Palace Hilton Hotel**, for 40 representatives from the 20 local teams. Participants review 2011 results and make 2012 action plans in a mix of project training, team building and experience exchange, including a visit to the **American International School of Bucharest**.

February - March 2012: Sibiu and Covasna County Action Groups meet to explore possibility of expanding FCG to the entire county, with co-financing from the County Councils, starting 2013.

April 2012: GlaxoSmithKline announces a €150,000 grant over three years for OvR to add a health component to ***Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță***. This grant will allow OvR to offer communities financial resources to address their young children's most pressing healthcare needs. This supports the process of decentralization by allowing communities to decide how to use the allocation, rather than providing 'cookie cutter' solutions when 'one size' doesn't necessarily fit every community's needs.

OvidiuRo's third series of public service announcements

OvidiuRo's national public awareness campaign, started in 2009, serves to remind TV viewers, Carrefour shoppers, Rompetrol customers, and radio listeners of the importance of early education for *ALL*. This year's spots were made in partnership with the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities (*www.policycenter.eu*).

Four 30-second video spots and four radio versions pose the questions:

1. Why is early education so important for poor children?





2. Why do we spend more to keep a man in prison than to support 12 children in preschool?

3. What kind of society will our children inherit from us?





4. Who will pay our pensions in 2035?

© Daniel Vrăbioiu

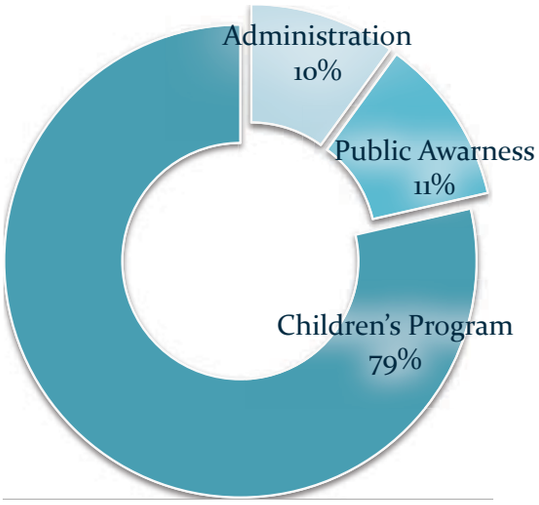
Production and promotion made possible by the contributions of:

Concept: Oana Michael
Production: Foarfeca Studio
Photographs: **Daniel Vrăbioiu**, Johannes Kruse, Elena Mocăniță
Voiceover: Marcel Iureș
Music rights: Universal Muzic Publishing Romania
TV & radio placement: Zenith Media
Poster design: Advice Students

Radio coverage: Antena Satelor, Gold FM, Radio 3 net, Radio ZU, Radio România Actualități, Radio România Cultural

TV coverage: Acasă, Animal Planet, AXN, AXN Crime, AXN Sci -Fi, Discovery Channel, Favorit TV, Giga TV, Money Channel, MTV, Music Channel, N 24 PLUS, National Geographic, National Geographic Wild, Național TV, OTV, Prima TV, Pro Cinema, Pro TV, Sport.ro, TLC, TVR Info, TVR1, TVR2, TVR3

Other venues: Carrefour hypermarkets, Rompetrol stations, CITV, Spectacular View, B-Est Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival and Romanian Film Festival (NY)

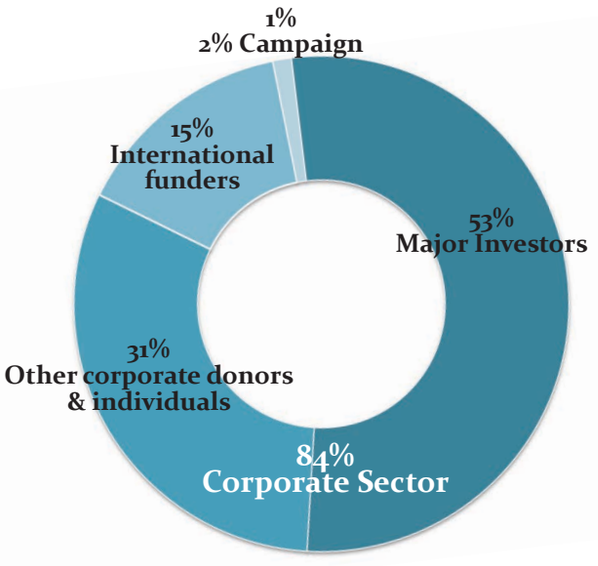


2011 EXPENSES & 2012 BUDGET

DIRECT SERVICES	FCG SITES	OFFICE	TOTAL €	BUDGET 2012
Salaries	117,965		117,965	124,500
School lunches	25,740	177	25,917	20,000
School clothes	4,373		4,373	7,200
IDs, medicine, hygiene products for families	884		884	1,000
Educational materials per child	30,893	2,130	33,023	23,000
Educational materials for teachers	-	-	-	10,000
Summer programs & including teachers' stipends	130	12,105	12,235	32,000
Teachers' training & community consultation	21,685	18,004	39,689	45,000
Transport	6,745	69,155	75,900	45,000
Meal coupons for perfect preschool attendance	131,690	860	132,550	168,000
TOTAL DIRECT SERVICES	**340,105**	**102,431**	**442,536**	**475,700**
PUBLIC AWARENESS				
Salaries		43,593	43,593	55,000
Public awareness printed materials		15,913	15,913	15,000
Other expenses	24	4,864	4,888	5,000
TOTAL PUBLIC AWARENESS	**24**	**64,370**	**64,394**	**75,000**
ADMINISTRATION				
Salaries		29,707	29,707	30,000
Utilities, office supplies, equipment	3,212	17,421	20,633	23,500
Other maintenance expenses		6,001	6,001	6,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	**3,212**	**53,129**	**56,341**	**59,500**
TOTAL €	**343,341**	**219,930**	**563,271**	**610,200**

2011 INCOME

Major Investors	**168,335**
Other corporate donors & individuals	**102,128**
International funders	**52,000**
2% Campaign	**4,322**
TOTAL €	**326,785**



2011 DONORS JANUARY 2011-MARCH 2012

the Alex fund
€ 52,000


€ 42,585

BRD GROUPE SOCIETE GENERALE
€ 40,000

PORSCHE ROMANIA
€ 30,000

ROMPETROL
€ 25,000


€ 20,300

Cargill
€ 18,750

Raiffeisen BANK
Reușim împreună.
€ 16,000

Carrefour
€ 15,000


€ 11,500

Athénée Palace Hilton
Bucharest

		In kind
The Alex Fund	€ 52,000	
PRO TV	€ 42,585	✋
BRD	€ 40,000	✋
Porsche Romania	€ 30,000	
Rompetrol	€ 25,000	✋
RMGC	€ 20,300	
Cargill	€ 18,750	
Raiffeisen	€ 16,000	
Carrefour	€ 15,000	✋
OMV Petrom	€ 11,500	
UNICEF	€ 10,700*	
Oracle	€ 8,800	
Saatchi & Saatchi / Zenith Media	€ 8,500	✋
C&A	€ 7,500	✋
Unirea Shopping Center	€ 5,500	
Orange	€ 5,434	✋
Heineken (Fundația Gândește Verde)	€ 5,000	
Rinf Outsourcing Solution	€ 5,000	
Friedrich Niemann	€ 5,000*	✋
Tomini Trading	€ 5,000*	
Property Shark	€ 3,800	
Dedeman	€ 3,500	✋
Băneasa Real Estate Investment	€ 3,000	
Niro Investments	€ 3,000	
UPC	€ 3,000	✋
Lowe PR	€ 3,000	
Oliver & Fabiola Meister	€ 2,500*	
Policy Center for Roma & Minorities	€ 2,000	
Steven & Valeria van Groningen	€ 1,930	
Victor Dornescu	€ 1,460	
SOF Medica	€ 1,315	
Linda Griffin	€ 1,050	
Bogdan Atanasiu	€ 1,000*	
Athenee Palace Hilton	€ 1,000	✋✋✋
2% Campaign	€ 4,322	
Zoppas Industries	€ 880	
Carmen Daniela Tănase	€ 870	
International Health Care System	€ 850	
Multi Media Est	€ 800	
Optha Max	€ 700	
High Fashion Concept	€ 600	
Susli Gemile	€ 500	
David Ottaviano	€ 500	
Michel Dupuis	€ 500*	
Konrad Niemann	€ 500*	
Individual & Corporate contributions < €500	€ 5,793	

*received in 2012

OvidiuRo's records are audited annualy by KPMG

CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER €500

Horia Darius Ciocoiu, Sotirios Marinidis, Frank Paul Bom, Ana Ghika, Michael Kersten Mronz, Andreea Marin Bănică, Cătălin Bogdan, Nora Seroussi, Gunter Friedrich, Anja & Andreas Scholl, Nicole & Peter Asam, Cristopher Cox, Joakim & Brigitte Franke, Brigit Harle, Stefanie & Volker Moser, Claudia Pendred, Max Schleifenbaum, Andreas & Barbel Schmitt-Fink, Ursula Schwab, Mark & Libby Gittenstein, Olaf Malchow, Cristian Weber, Marcus & Sybille Wilfer, Monica Săndulescu, Răzvan Rada, Ana Stoica, Andreea Mihai, Smiley, Monica Ștefania Stroe, Marcus Bender, Frank Grischa Feitsch, Annette Fiss & Annemarie Goos, Michael Fuchs, Alexandra Gătej & Florin Mureșan, Andreas Leukel, Wiebke Lohs, Richard Moat, Dagmar Riepenhusen, Stefanie & Andreeas Roder, Michaela & Wolfgang Schyrocki, Birgit van Stipriann, Ronald van Weezel & Alex Willemse, Julian Zietlow, Steve Borncamp, Florin Popescu, Răzvan Marius Radu, Mădălina Drăghici, Nicole Bruse, Michaela Klug, Ileana Năstase, Detlev Niemann, Cristian Stănculescu, Alexandru Calcan, Corina & Dragoș Dobre, Bettina Schulze, Hose Ramos Feilipe Maciel, Liliana Mocanescu, Oana Dochie, Radu Cătălin Mardare, Valery Novoselsky



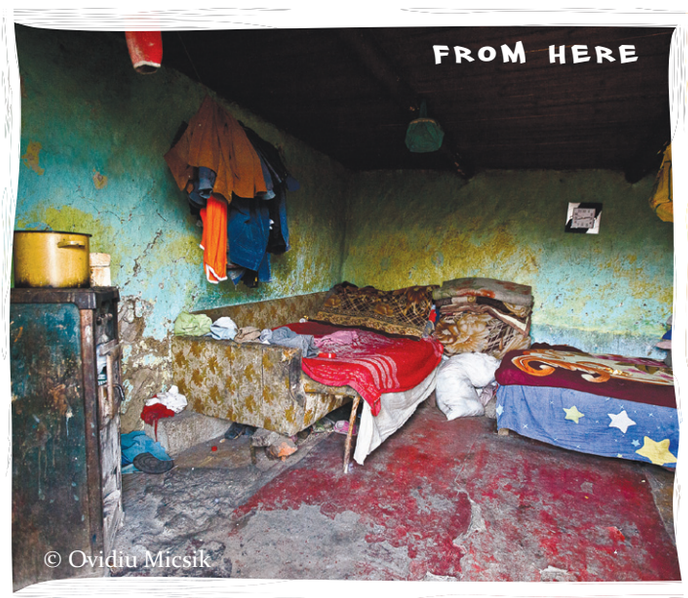
On January 21, 2012, Friedrich Niemann, the former General Manager of the Athenee Palace Hilton, used the occasion of his 50th birthday to raise funds to support ***Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță*** once again (even though he no longer resides in Romania). He started the fund with a personal donation of €5000.

In total, € 13,000 was gathered at his birthday celebration in Berlin from family and friends. This amount will support an entire class of preschoolers for the 2012-2013 school year - plus training for their teachers, classroom materials, and food coupons to the children's families. Not a bad way to 'spend' your 50th birthday.

OvidiuRo's founders were so touched by this unprecedented **act of generosity by an individual - with personal, not institutional funds** - that we have created an annual award in Frieder's honor.

Nomination will be accepted for this year's award by December 31, 2012.
Send nomination to: *leslie.hawke@ovid.ro*

HELP GET POOR CHILDREN





IT JUST GOT A LOT EASIER TO HELP A KID LEARN THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW!

If you have internet banking, your account can be debited monthly and your donation will help a child go to kindergarten. You decide the amount and the bank automatically transfers it to OvidiuRo's Food Coupon account.

Transfer 50 lei and we will give a mother who brings her child to kindergarten every day 50 lei worth of food coupons for that month. It's that direct. And it's simple, secure, automatic and *a great investment*. *When was the last time you spent 50 lei and didn't remember what you spent it on?*

Contact: *diana.hodivoianu@ovid.ro, 021 315 88 06*
http://www.ovid.ro/en/how-to-help

SIMPLE SECURE AUTOMATIC AND A GREAT INVESTMENT

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DONATIONS CAN BE MADE BY:

Electronic transfer to Asociația OvidiuRo

account at ING Bank, Romania
swift code: INGBROBU

LEI: RO33 INGB 0008 0081 5133 8917
RO54 INGB 0008 0081 5133 8927
USD: RO25 INGB 0008 0081 5133 4017
EURO: RO79 INGB 0008 0081 5133 0717
GBP: RO29 INGB 0008 0081 5133 1617

Recurrent (monthly) donation

Contact: diana.hodivoianu@ovid.ro
Tel: 021 315 88 06

Directing 2% of your payroll taxes OR 20% of your company's profit tax

Name: Asociația OvidiuRo
Fiscal code: 16 40 50 35
Account: RO33 INGB 0008 0081 5133 8917

Donate online: www.ovid.ro/how-to-help



Original Photo: Daniel Vrăbioiu

Writting a check payable to The Alex Fund, a 501(c)(3) US charity, mailed to:

the Alex fund

211 W. 106th St., Suite 4A
New York, NY 10025
212-865-7611 alex@alexfund.org

Donate online: www.alexfund.org/ how-to-help

CONTACT:

Bucharest: Str. Dr. Râureanu 4, Et. 3, 050048
tel/fax 021 315 88 06
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