



**Short presentations of participating organisations from Romania
@ the Active Citizens Fund Matchmaking Seminar**

Sandefjord, Norway 20 – 22 January 2020

Civitas Foundation

Location: Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania

Contact details: office.udv@civitas.ro, www.civitas.ro

Representative: Judith Molnar

Short description of the organization: Our mission is to increase the development capacity of local communities through building success models that trigger well-being. „Community” is the concept around which our work revolves. We constantly dedicate time and energy to build innovative solutions in the fields of social economy and entrepreneurship and transferring knowledge in the benefit of local communities. The Civitas Foundation is, and will remain, an organization dedicated to sustainable development programs.

Our organizational structure is represented by two regional offices, located in the North-West and Center development regions of Romania, respectively in the cities of Cluj-Napoca and Odorheiu Secuiesc. Therefore, the projects and initiatives belonging to Civitas are mostly, but not exclusively, implemented in Transylvania. Together with our partners we run a significant number of national and international projects.

Our programs and projects belong to the field of local and regional development, and our four sub-fields: Community development and good governance, Social economy and entrepreneurship, Civil society empowerment and Rural economic development.

ECPI-Euroregional Centre for Public Initiatives

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: www.ecpi.ro, www.drepturisexuale.ro

Representative: Florin Buhuceanu

Short description of the organization: ECPI is a human rights foundation based in Bucharest focusing on non-discrimination and sexual and reproductive rights.

We have advocated for national legal frame combating hate crimes (as part of the Anti-discrimination Coalition) and for preserving legislation that allows access to sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable groups, including abortion (as part of the Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights).

In 2018, we were part of the core group of the RESPECT Platform for Rights and Liberties aiming to block toxic political maneuvers aiming to restrict access to family rights for LGBTI people (the so-called the Family Referendum). In 2019, we were involved in partnership with other NGOs in preparing the future Sexual and Reproductive Health National Plan 2020-2022 and the adoption of the HIV National Plan with a focus on vulnerable groups.

FILIA Center

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: office@centrulfilia.ro, www.centrulfilia.ro

Representative: Miruna Pantel

Short description of the organization: FILIA Center is a feminist NGO which makes women's voices be heard through community work and advocacy, activism and research. We want a society where women's rights and needs are respected. We promote social and civic dialogue on gender equality. FILIA was founded in 2000 and developed in the last 19 years as one of the most active feminist NGO in Romania. We work for gender equality and equality of opportunities, women's empowerment, women's participation in decision-making, women's political representation, preventing and combating all forms of violence against women. We believe in an intersectional approach that will include the diverse needs and interests of women, in order to promote gender equality and equality of opportunities, but also feminist values in the entire society.

In the last four years, FILIA has been working in a rural community with Roma and non-Roma women in order to create solidarity against all forms of violence towards women and to consolidate active initiative groups that will address women's problems from their community. Working mainly with volunteers, through non-formal education and raising awareness, FILIA developed active groups of young women and men that promote gender equality and non-discrimination and are engaged in defending women's rights. Last year FILIA also released a Gender Barometer, the first in 18 years in Romania and a report on abortion rights in Romania.

Expert Forum (EFOR)

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: office@expertforum.ro, www.expertforum.ro

Representative: Maria Cezar

Short description of the organization: Expert Forum (EFOR) is a Bucharest based think tank, set up by four well-known experts in public policy and public governance reform. The main sectors covered by the organization are: administration reform and public sector integrity; democratization, good governance, rule of law; justice and anticorruption reform; social policy and active citizenship.

Since its beginnings, EFOR has set as an important goal for itself to forge partnerships in order to fight for a cleaner and more responsible government, transparency in public budgets and a more open and predictable policy process. We do this by monitoring various public sectors and organizing public debates together with various business associations and the public sector.

The think tank has obtained support from international donors as a project leader to promote transparency and good governance in Romania and the region (Croatia, Serbia, Moldova, Georgia, Bulgaria) to monitor the proper, transparent use of public budgets and work on the reform of the public administration and judiciary sector.

EFOR also works on active citizenship at grassroots level by engaging citizens (students, teachers, local active citizens) on how to be more actively involved in their communities by learning how to engage with local authorities, monitor their activity and work together with others to promote development.

Geeks for Democracy

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: contact@geeksfordemocracy.ro, <https://g4d.ro/>

Representative: Adela Rapeanu

Short description of the organization: Geeks for Democracy (G4D) is an NGO first established as an informal civic group established after the local elections in Romania in June 2016.

The idea was to generate civic involvement for those Romanians doing rather well in the local context, people who could help NGOs with interdisciplinary expertise, creative people, capable to manage modern technologies and communication.

We collaborate closely with all other civic initiatives in Romania and abroad and have participated in many projects. G4D works on a Volunteerism as Service basis and our most successful and long-term projects are Every vote matters <https://fiecarevot.ro/> and The Democracy Fund <https://fondulpentrudemocratie.ro/>

The Civic Resource Centre

Location: Constanta, Romania

Contact details: office@resursecivice.ro, www.resursecivice.ro

Representative: Cosmin Barzan

Short description of the organization: The Civic Resource Centre association was established in 2006 to support, promote and develop civic consciousness and initiative in the spirit of proactive democracy at individual, community and regional levels. We are active in Youth and public administration, Cross-cultural dialogue, Democracy – Election monitoring, Migrants, refugees and urban cultural diversity, Civic and environmental activism.

As civic engagement organization, we enable communities to strive for reducing inequalities. Further more, we help migrants and refugees to get a good quality social inclusion, since 2010.

We have provided assistance for NGOs in Republic of Moldova to develop grass-roots democracy projects in rural communities, as well as election-monitoring programs. We are member of FOND - the Romanian platform for International Development, YEN - Youth Express Network, ALF – Anna Lindh Foundation, The Romanian Coalition for NEETs, Zero Waste Romania

Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: office@redi-ngo.eu, <https://www.redi-ngo.eu/>

Representative: Petrica Dulgheru

Short description of the organization: REDI was set up as a provider for technical assistance, to enable access to finance for entrepreneurs in Roma communities. Initially, we invested in maintaining and growing a network of business facilitators who would identify Roma entrepreneurs and business owners in Roma communities (Roma and non-Roma owners) and provide a broad range of business development services.

Because the services were diverse, we found it was difficult to capture and enhance the knowledge of the business facilitators and provide supporting pieces of training across industries as well as across geographies.

We now consider that REDI is not a service provider, but more of an ecosystem builder and connector between Roma entrepreneurs operating in their communities and the mainstream business environment.

Romanian Youth Council

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: office@ctr.ro, www.ctr.ro

Representative: Maria Francesca Cristea

Short description of the organization: CTR has as main purpose to defend and promote the rights and interests of young people from Romania, as well as to empower youth through active participation in decision-making processes.

CTR represents a strong voice in the process of developing public policies that have a direct or indirect impact on young people, especially in fields like employment, education, health, civic engagement, politics and volunteering. CTR is the youth platform recognized as the Romanian member organization in the European Youth Forum and it is a full member of the World Assembly of Youth.

In order to achieve the objectives, CTR aims to achieve the following main activities, addressed to young people: lobbying and advocacy activities for the rights and interests of young people; conferences, symposiums, congresses, roundtables, seminars, etc. on different areas of interest for young people; carrying out specific studies and researches; organizing information and awareness campaigns, etc.

Center for Legal Resources

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: office@crj.ro, www.crj.ro

Representative: Ioana Iliescu

Short description of the organization: The Foundation Centre for Legal Resources (CLR) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, established in 1998 in Bucharest by the Open Society Foundation Romania. CLR actively advocates for the establishment and operation of a legal and institutional framework that safeguards the observance of human rights and equal opportunities, free access to fair justice and which contributes to the capitalization of its legal expertise for the general public interest.

CLR runs programs in three main areas of strategy areas: equality and non-discrimination; the rights of persons with disabilities and public integrity. Since as early as 2003, CLR has operated in defending the human rights (of people with mental disabilities and those discriminated) and the rule of law and its inherent institutions, carrying out monitoring visits in institutions for persons with disabilities. CLR conducts its' own investigations, takes over cases of abuses against the rights of institutionalized people with mental disabilities and goes through all the necessary trial steps for securing these rights. We make proposals for improving the human rights legal framework, making proposals for norms and public policies. We are currently focused on promoting a public policy on supported decision making for persons with mental disabilities.

uzinaduzina

Location: Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Contact details: liviu.pop@uzinaduzina.org, www.uzinaduzina.org

Representative: Mihaela Bidilica

Short description of the organization: Engaging the work of a small, energetic and dedicated team of young practitioners, uzinaduzina aims to support urban culture in Transylvania. Working with young and adult audiences, the team attempts to prompt them to discover the latest trends, but also to remember and acknowledge their recent past, thus contributing to a culture of dialogue between the two age groups.

Our name stands for “a dozen work initiatives in a factory” since we wanted this organization to allow each of us to further our research and develop projects and events that would concord with our advocacy initiatives. It has so far proven a fertile environment and we believe this type of association particularly suits young democracies where a not-for-profit culture is still to be developed. It also suits university centers, where research hubs are valuable for students and graduates alike.

Due to our academic and professional backgrounds, we are particularly attentive to issues related to material and immaterial heritage as well as changes in the public space. In the past, we have organized storytelling events and colored retro projections (a special pastime for children growing up in the ‘80s in communist Romania).

Hope and Homes for Children Romania

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: bucuresti@hopeandhomes.ro, www.hopeandhomes.ro

Representative: Ingrid Baltaretu

Short description of the organization: The lack of love and attachment that are specific to a family and the lack of stimulation and individual attention that every child needs cause devastating effects. Orphanages deprive children from the things they need most in order to grow, to develop and to be able to trust others.

18 years ago, in Romania, there were about 100,000 children in old-type institutions, also known as 'orphanages'. Today, as a result of our programs, only 7,000 children are left in institutions in Romania. We focus on closing down old-type institutions and we aim to replace the institutional child protection system with a system that is based on a family concept.

We seek to determine the State to adopt our programs for preventing the separation of children from their families and for reintegrating children with their families. Since the beginning, we have been constantly contributing to the reform of the child protection system in Romania.

ICAR Foundation

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Contact details: icar@icarfoundation.ro, <http://www.icarfoundation.ro/en/>

Representative: Elena Patrăteanu

Short description of the organization: ICAR Foundation is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1992 that is offering free medical, psychological, social and legal assistance to vulnerable groups, such as refugees, asylum seekers, third country nationals, with a special focus on those identified as victims of torture or other gross and inhumane treatments.

ICAR's main mission is the promotion of the right to medical and psychological rehabilitation for survivors and their families, regardless of their legal status, while contributing to the life standard of primary and secondary victims of gross human rights violations among former political prisoners, refugees, asylum seekers and other groups of migrants through provision of comprehensive rehabilitation packages.

Today, ICAR has a network of 6 outreach offices all over the country and a team of more than 25 professionals covering various fields: medical, psychological, social, legal, educational. ICAR Foundation is also running a rehabilitation program for survivors of torture from the refugee population, documenting and providing medical and psychological reports and assistance to those who have suffered abuse and human rights violations in their country of origin or in transit to Europe. This program is client-centered, culture and gender sensitive, community based and enables survivors to deal with their traumatic experiences, while moving away from the role of a victim and becoming a contributing member of the community.