

A periodical newsletter published by World Vision Romania's project "RADC",
a project funded by Europe Aid (DCI-NSA 2009/202-400)

IN FOCUS

► A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear readers,

On the 9th of September we celebrate 20 years of being present and involved in the development of Romanian communities. We are happy and proud to have helped so many families and especially children from the poor rural areas around the entire country.

More than ever, we are aware of the need to think globally and act locally. And in this sense, building capacity on 20 years of experience in the Romanian context has enabled us to insert a new dimension in our projects: international solidarity. Youth national forums with young people from Ghana and R. Moldova, international events, facilitation of a national multi-stakeholder process in the design of the first Romanian curricula on the Millennium Development Goals. These are just three of our EU funded projects' expected results. Moreover, we are keeping our commitment on raising awareness nationally on international solidarity and Romania's role as a New Member State in the EU.

Your input is very valuable to us, so please do not hesitate to contact us!

Anita Delhaas-van Dijk
Executive Director,
World Vision Foundation Romania

► 9 MONTHS...

...in the project have meant a lot of work, debates, meetings, documents, interviews and events, exchange of ideas, evaluation and re-evaluation, one shiny spring and an extremely hot summer in Bucharest. But we don't complain...we are actually looking forward to sharing news with you. We also hope to make this regular meeting extremely interesting for you and to receive your views and feedback.

Regards,
Claudia Iatan,
RADC Project Manager,
claudia_iatan@wvi.org



RADC REFRESH

www.developmenteducation.org

► The RADC project is happy to announce its new web portal. It is designed to be a specialised resource space for educational institutes at all levels, civil society organisations and actors, important stakeholders (such as students, media persons, other educators, etc.) and the general public. Visit the portal and you will read about the projects' results, access learning tools through online courses, collect resources related to Development Education and discussion and share opinions and ideas.

CURRICULA ON THE MDGs: ACADEMIC EXPERTS JOIN WORLD VISION ROMANIA

► On the 28th June, UNDP Romania together with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially launched the 5 MAs in development studies implemented within 5 different universities throughout the country. During the event two major needs were underlined by all deans and lecturers present at the event: the need to create a partnership in the development cooperation field between the academia and the civil society and the need to create the proper infrastructure for applied research.

World Vision Romania Foundation (WVRF) is best positioned to respond to these needs through the RADC project. The process of its implementation and its results are meant to build a strong cooperation between the academic field and civil society in terms of creating resources, building common capacity in the field and envisioning together practical opportunities for the students to get involved and be active in international solidarity.

The RADC team is now complete. Three university lecturers have joined our team and initiative to create the first Romanian curricula that tackles the MDGs.

Read more about our experts on the following page. ◀

In this issue:

News from the RADC project:

Launch of Development Education portal

RADC: Academic experts join WVR in curriculum design

FEATURE: World Vision Institute

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Conclusions from the Romanian Development Camp 2010

Events review:

- National Seminar: Development and Global Education
- International Youth Year

Looking forward to:

- Arcadia Annual Conference 2010
- Youth Forum for Global Development 2010

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THE ROMANIAN RADC TEAM IS NOW COMPLETE

After a period of interviews and evaluation of potential collaborators, WVRF has finally identified the most suitable experts to fulfill the challenging task of creating the first Romanian curricula that tackles the Millennium Development Goals. The experts are:



LUCIANA- ALEXANDRA GHICA - Content Developer

► Author of a book on the relations between Romania and the European Union (2006), the editor of the first Romanian Encyclopedia of the European Union and co-editor of the first Romanian handbook of security studies, she studied political science and international relations, with a focus on the global impact of the European Union, at the University of Bucharest, Oxford University and the Central European University, from which she holds an MA and a PhD in Political Science. Luciana currently acts as University Lecturer at the Political Science Department of the University of Bucharest.



MIRELA OPREA – Expert in curriculum design and development

► A psychologist according to her Romanian BA, Mirela holds a PhD in international development and an MA in EU integration policies from the University of Bologna. Her recent research focused on development policies and practices in the new Member States of the European Union. At World Vision Romania she is engaged with advocating for sound policies for international development and is one of the lead experts in development education. Mirela is also a board member of Romania's national NGDO platform, FOND.



LUCIAN VESALON – Instructional Designer

► Lucian Vesalon is Lecturer in the Department of Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, Philosophy and Communication Studies, West University of Timisoara. He teaches Political theory, Discourse Analysis, and Globalism and globalization. His research interests include applied political theory, development ethics and environmental politics. He is currently working on a book on the politics of development in Eastern Europe.



CLAUDIA IATAN – Curriculum and training developer

► Journalist by profession, Claudia holds an MA in Intercultural Studies from the University of Padua, Italy. She was the first national platform coordinator of the Romanian NGDO platform, FOND and she worked as consultant for several Romanian NGOs in the implementation of different projects, mainly related to development education and awareness raising. She is also collaborator for the online Italian magazine "Osservatorio sui Balcani" that follows social and economical issues in the Balkans and the Caucasus.



BOGDAN RADU – Researcher

► Bogdan Radu is Junior Lecturer in Political Science and International Relations at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. He received his Ph. D. in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine, and his MA in European Politics and Policy from the University of Manchester. Bogdan is currently teaching classes on international relations, civil society and political culture, East Asian politics and democratization. He is interested in international development mostly from the perspective of emerging donors and their ways of internalizing its principles, while consolidating their democracies and constructing popular support for their political systems.

FEATURING IN THIS ISSUE: WORLD VISION INSTITUTE – European research center for development cooperation

► The World Vision Institute for Research and Development (WV Institute) is a facility for research, consultation and development in the areas of development co-operation, humanitarian relief and non-profit management. It addresses such topics as poverty, economic discrimination, and social injustice as well as management issues like social innovation, social business and social entrepreneurship.

The WV Institute considers itself to be an expert pool and a think tank with high practical relevance. Utilizing the practical experience of the global World Vision Partnership that is represented in nearly 100 countries with almost 40.000 staff, the institute is active in research, consultation, development and publication and to that end seeks to liaise with other research institutes.

The WV Institute understands itself explicitly as a research facility with practical relevance and as catalyst for research projects in the areas of development co-operation, disaster relief, the social sciences, and non-profit management. The Institute closely networks with other centers of research and seeks to dialogue and co-operate with universities and their students. ◀

Visit the website: www.worldvision-institut.de

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THE ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENT CAMP, 24-27th June, Bucharest and Covasna

► The third edition of the Romanian Development Camp entitled "MDGs in Focus: Perspectives from the re-emerging donors" took place on 24-27th June 2010 in Bucharest and Covasna and it was organized by the Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND) in partnership and with the financial support of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event brought together more than 100 participants from different countries and aimed at presenting the contributions of the new EU member states as re-emerging donors. The theme was chosen in the context of the UN Summit which will be held this year in September and will review the progress and the main challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The opening session, held in Bucharest on June 24th, had Teodor Baconschi, the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andris Piebalgs the EU Commissioner for Development, and Paul Hoebink, Professor in Development Cooperation (Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen) as main guest speakers. Mr. Piebalgs emphasized in his speech that development cooperation should be at the center of the foreign policy agenda and noted that NGOs are a driving force for development cooperation.

The working sessions of the camp took place in Covasna and consisted of plenary sessions, workshops and debates. World Vision Romania Foundation was actively involved in the organizing of this event and coordinated two panels: "For-profits and non-profits – Partners for international solidarity" and "Role of donor countries national parliaments".

The most important conclusions of this edition of the Romanian Development Camp underlined:

- a. The need for national development cooperation policy revision so that actions feed into policy objectives, rather than ad-hoc goals;
- b. The revisited strategy should include a results-oriented approach, with embedded mechanisms for evaluation, answering a world wide concern of donors on aid effectiveness.
- c. The academia and the civil society should work together to shape the scope and ethical boundaries of development frameworks;
- d. The members of the Parliament are encouraged to include the global issues on their political agendas;
- e. In view of Romanian participation to the MDG Summit, RDC participants strongly encourage the MFA to open a dialogue and to prepare Romanian position through cross-sectoral consultations. FOND, as the strategic partner of MFA, is expressing its availability and interest to contribute to the debate. ◀



SETTING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

► FOND Working Group on Development Education organized on the 8th and 9th of July 2010 the National Seminar on Global/ Development Education "Setting the national framework for development education in Romania", in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports. The event took place in cooperation and with the financial support of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

The objective of the seminar was to bring together key Romanian stakeholders in the field and raise awareness on development education among governmental and non-governmental actors in order to create a multi-stakeholder process to prepare the national global/development education strategy. Among the participants invited, there were representatives from central and local authorities, ministries, civil society, academia and mass media.

The event focused on the communication and collaboration between NGOs and the governmental actors and the presentations covered interesting topics such as: theoretical approaches on development/ global education concepts, good practices in the field of development education in Europe, financial opportunities and the national context in development/global education. The last part of the event included several thematic workshops where World Vision Romania Foundation facilitated the elaboration of a draft plan for the national development education strategy.

The conclusions of the seminar emphasized the need for a common vision of the national community involved, on the two concepts of development education/global education as well as coherence and communication between all the relevant actors. FOND Working Group on Development Education will ensure the follow-up of this event by initiating and facilitating a national multi-stakeholder group including the participants at this seminar. ◀

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LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR 12th August, Bucharest

► With the occasion of the International Youth Year, Bucharest City Hall in collaboration with World Vision Romania, The National Youth Council in Romania, UNDP Romania, Information Office of the Council of Europe in Bucharest and other non-governmental organization representatives took part in a 1 day round table entitled "Youth involvement in development education".

Around 30 non-governmental organizations presented their projects dedicated to youth and tried to see where interests and resources meet in order to set up a partnership for this year. More about this special year: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/> ◀



ARCADIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

► The Romanian Association for International Cooperation and Development (ARCADIA) has the pleasure of inviting you to the ARCADIA Annual Conference 2010, which will take place on the 25th and 26th of November 2010, in Bucharest, Romania.

The ARCADIA Annual Conference 2010 will facilitate the dialogue between researchers, scholars, practitioners and policy makers on this year's theme: "Development, Trade and Foreign and Security Policy: How can Emerging Donors make a difference?"

This event's edition has as background the emergence of new donors and the subsequent development of related policies, strategies and institutions. Viewed not only from a governmental and financial point of view, but also from a civil-society standpoint, the implications of donorship prove to be challenging. Therefore, this conference will critically analyze the relations between developing countries and emerging donors from three interrelated perspectives: Development, Trade and Foreign and Security Policy.

During this event, World Vision Romania will co-organize one of the panels and will invite the participants to reflect upon the existing resources and initiatives in development cooperation in Romania and give input on how to put together academic knowledge and the expertise of civil society in their common effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. More information: <http://romaniansindevelopment.wordpress.com/> ◀

YOUTH FORUM FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT 2010



► The first edition of this forum is organized by World Vision Romania Foundation on the 24th-26th September in Cluj Napoca Romania. This annual event is one of the most important public events within the EU-funded "Peer Up!" project implemented by FWVR Romania, Germany and Austria in the field of development education. The purpose of the project is to raise awareness among the general public and especially among the youth on three major themes related to global development: HIV/Aids, maternal and children's health and food security.

50 young people from Cluj Napoca are expected to participate at the event along with representatives from the local authorities, civil society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Romanian parliament and the private sector.

The event will start with a debate with the local senators and deputies on a very challenging theme: "Why do we need an efficient and coherent international development policy?" The agenda of the event proposes a very interesting discussion on the roles of the different stakeholders in the field such as: the European Parliament, the local authorities, the schools and the civil society. ◀

PEER UP! launched its brand new portal available now in Romanian, English and German.

Check it out here: www.peer-up.ro

Background information

WVRF is a child-rights oriented organization, with considerable amount of experience in implementing development and awareness raising projects. Curricula development is hardly a new activity for World Vision Romania. Since its early days in Romania (the beginning of the 1990s), WVRF contributed to the elaboration of alternative curricula (egg. in the field of health education in a context in which many health-related topics were not considered by the formal curriculum). At the same time, WVRF is a member of the development education working group (DEWG) in FOND, the Romanian NGDO platform, and since the creation of the federation, WVRF was actively involved in the organizing of major events in the field such as DEEEP Summer School in Romania 2009 or Third Edition of The Romanian Development Camp 2010.

Moreover, WVRF initiated various activities for raising the awareness regarding Romania's new role as a donor country (ex. Stand-up Against Poverty Campaign, promoting the MDGS, etc.). Starting with December 2008, WVRF implemented a UNDP-financed project to raise citizens' awareness on the MDGs. MDG6 was chosen by WVRF as focal awareness raising objective. The project had two main aims: 1) advocate for Romania to introduce innovative funding mechanisms for development (ex. the UNITAID system so that Romania can contribute to fighting HIV on a wider scale); b) show concrete examples for involvement for the regular citizens. Through the first component a high-level international debate was organized at Bucharest with the participation of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and other relevant ministries. In the framework of the second component, a group of volunteers trained by WVRF started an awareness and fund-raising campaign in favor of malaria-infected children in Africa.

Apart from the "Raising awareness for development cooperation project", WVRF is also implementing another EU funded project in development education called "Peer Up!" which is run in partnership with World Vision Germany and World Vision Austria. "Peer Up!" will raise the global development awareness of Romanian citizens, and in particular of young people from Cluj. The main development issues that will be reflected are as follows: HIV / AIDS, maternal and child health and food security.

Website: http://www.worldvision.ro/proiectele-noastre_cooperare-pentru-dezvoltare.php
www.developmenteducation.org

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