

Raising Awareness for Development Cooperation

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,

This year, World Vision Romania celebrated 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 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, organizing 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

► 11 MONTHS...

...in the project have meant a lot of work, debates, meetings, documents, interviews and events, exchange of ideas, evaluation and re-evaluation, an extremely hot summer and a moody autumn 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 Pedersen,
RADC Project Manager,
claudia_pedersen@wvi.org



This project is funded by the European Union

SUBSCRIBE TO RADC!

www.developmenteducation.org

► The RADC project is happy to announce its new web portal is up and running and you can **subscribe** at: www.developmenteducation.org.

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, mass media, 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

► In June 2010, UNDP Romania together with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially launched the 4 MAs in development studies implemented within 4 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 inclined 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: [Subscribe for news!](#)

RADC: Academic experts join WVRF in MDGs curriculum design

INTERVIEW: Kurt Bangert, Research Director World Vision Institute, Germany

Other news:

WV Romania and WV Georgia joint project on youth civic participation

Events review:

- DEAR Conference, Brussels
- Black Sea NGO Forum, Romania

**Looking forward to:
Arcadia Annual Conference 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 PEDERSEN – 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

On the following page: Interview with Kurt Bangert, Research Director, World Vision Institute, Germany

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"WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF IDEOLOGIES AND IDOLS, BUT NOT ENOUGH OF GOOD IDEAS AND VALUES"

INTERVIEW: Kurt Banger, Research Director, World Vision Institute, Germany

Please tell us briefly about your professional experience related to development cooperation.

Kurt Banger: I have been in the development business for 30 years. A portion of my time I dealt particularly with disabled people and projects dealing with poverty alleviation. The last few years I have been involved in doing documentation and research for the World Vision Institute. We place an emphasis on doing research on children and we are currently doing surveys of children asking them about their own well-being and perception of their situation.

During your visit in Romania you have been invited to give lectures in three different faculties in Bucharest and Cluj where you talked about the 10 most important challenges of the 21st century. Could you briefly mention what you discussed about?

Kurt Banger: Poverty is the number one challenge then education, armed conflict and how to manage it; one could also talk about terrorism and its underlying causes, gender equity because women are the key element for positive development. Food security is another very important aspect very much related to hunger and one of the biggest topic in my view is the need to address climate change since the poor are the ones who are most affected by this issues. There is one other challenge I proposed and that is the lack of ideas, we've had enough of ideology and of idols, but not of good ideas and values, so I proposed that in a multicultural, globalized world which grows together there is a great need to develop a common understanding of values.

You participated in a meeting with representatives from the Romanian NGDO platform, FOND. What do you think the future role of NGOs should be in development cooperation in Romania?

KB: I think it is very good that CSOs have organized themselves under the umbrella of FOND. I think FOND should take a leading role in suggesting a strategy for the Romanian government and how they should view and handle international development and how they should allocate funds. FOND should push the field forward! I don't know if FOND is coherent or strong enough but if FOND initiates a common strategy that involves all stakeholders, they can create that coherence.

You made a very interesting comment at one point on how you communicate development.

KB: Yes. First of all I believe it is important for Romanians to realize that they do not always want to be receivers of aid, but that they want to be contributors of aid as well; because no-one wants to be at the receiving end all the time. There is one great danger when communicating development issues: people can get overwhelmed and overburdened with the negative side of things. When people have a busy and hard life, they don't want to be bothered by all the other negative things that exist in the world, so you should find a way of positively talk about what you are doing: positive changes always encourage people!

YOUTH CIVIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECT

World Vision Romania shares expertise with World Vision Georgia

► The Youth Civic Education and Community Participation project (YCECP) is a one-year project funded by UNDP Georgia. It aims to promote responsible citizenship and community participation for youth with ages between 14 and 18 in Georgia and Romania. The purpose of the project is to provide youth in both countries with an understanding of a democratic society and the principles of civic participation and advocacy.

The project is comprised of three objectives: 1) to enhance civic education and community development, 2) to incorporate advocacy methodologies into youth groups and 3) to connect youth to the Global Youth Network in both Georgia and Romania.



Pupils in Telavi, Georgia

The project will support capacity building of Student/Youth Councils and Initiative Group in topics such as leadership, rights and responsibilities of citizens, civic participation, volunteerism, democracy building and engaging in /establishing local volunteer community service projects.

The project will educate youth about their rights and responsibilities utilizing CV&A (Citizen Voice and Action) methodology. CV&A aims to increase dialogue between ordinary citizens and organizations that provide public services and to improve accountability from the administrative and political sections of government (both national and local) in order to improve the delivery of public services. The objective of CV&A is to empower communities to influence the quality, efficiency and accountability of public services.

Project activities also include two international study visits where selected youth leaders from Romania and Georgia will travel to the partner country in order to share knowledge and views with their peers. ◀

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EVENTS REVIEW: INPUTS ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS, 11TH & 12TH OCTOBER 2010



► On the 11th-12th October, the European Commission invited World Vision Romania Foundation, among other 100 individuals and representatives of governments, organizations and networks with an interest in development education, to give feedback on the 'Development Education and Awareness Raising Study'. A final report will be developed based on feedback from participants and other stakeholders. The Study was commissioned by EuropeAid to: analyze current DEAR processes, make an overview of the main actors and develop recommendations for a future strategy for development education in the EU.

The new strategy will envisage: **a)** a stronger focus on and participation of Southern partners in development education projects to take place in EU and in the South itself - it has been said that it is important that Southern NGOs have an equal right to participate, including as lead applicants for development education projects, although the application procedures are not yet clear; **b)** revised procedures for grant applications and administrative processes; **c)** a more inclusive approach, by encouraging all sorts of stakeholders (even if not traditionally involved with development education). Find the Interim Report August 2010 here:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/pfifs/mwikis/aidco/images/d/d5/DEAR_CONTENTS.pdf ◀

BLACK SEA NGO FORUM, THIRD EDITION, 21ST-23RD OCTOBER, CONSTANTA, ROMANIA

► The Black Sea NGO Forum was launched in 2008 by the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs and its partners throughout the region with support from the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation and the Representation of the European Commission in Romania in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy. The Forum aims at increasing the level of dialogue and cooperation among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region, as a means of strengthening NGOs and their capacity to influence regional and national policies.

This year the theme of the Forum was "Investing in our common future" and included a dedicated space for debates for governmental and nongovernmental actors, international institution representatives in order to identify common solutions for local and regional issues, partnerships, sharing experiences and presenting donor programs.

Within this event, World Vision Romania Foundation moderated the panel "Networking and solidarity among NGOs in the region". The scope of the panel was to respond to a need expressed in several other events and forums in the past years on how networking should look in the region, and on how collaboration should be encouraged.

Read more here: www.blackseango.org ◀



LOOKING FORWARD TO...

ARCADIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, FOREIGN & SECURITY POLICY: HOW CAN EMERGING DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

25-26th November, Howard Johnson Grand Plaza Hotel, Bucharest

World Vision Romania Foundation invites you to participate in the workshop: *The Millennium Development Goals – An academic perspective*



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 donor-ship 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 Foundation will co-organize and facilitate 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/> ◀

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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