

# 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,

After two years of working closely with youth on global development issues in Bucharest, Cluj and Constanta, the team in World Vision Romania (WVR) recognizes the great potential youth have in changing mentalities, in promoting values and creating a just world. The Millennium Development Goals are targets that could be the biggest challenge of our time and in order to be achieved, they should also signal a groundbreaking cultural shift that can start with the youth of today. Enjoy the 5<sup>th</sup> issue of our newsletter and read more about our activities and initiatives especially designed for pupils and students.

Daniela Buzducea,  
Director, Advocacy Department  
World Vision Romania

### ► RADC INFORMATIONAL TOOLKIT was launched...

And you can read it here:  
<http://www.developmenteducation.org/toolkit/>

The present information toolkit has two main objectives. Firstly, by presenting the successful outcomes of the project, it aims to raise awareness on development cooperation and endorse the build-up of such partnerships among relevant stakeholders for further expansion of development cooperation. Secondly, the information toolkit aims to provide a theoretical framework, basic guidelines, and case studies for the integration of the proposed curriculum in the regular activities of NGOs and universities. Specifically, the information toolkit displays the identity of the project, the theoretical framework based on which the project was developed, and the development priorities of each partner country and the EU.

### ► RADC: International Conference in Cyprus, 4<sup>th</sup> November

The International Conference wrapped up the second year of activities within the RADC project. It tackled themes such as: "Development Cooperation" and "Development Education" in the European context and specifically in the New Member States. The event took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 at the UNESCO Amphitheatre in the University of Nicosia. The conference's agenda included presentations, discussion and workshops related to practical applications for development cooperation, innovative partnerships for sustainable development, the role of NGOs and the political culture in international development. Academics, decision makers and civil society representatives participated at the event.



For further details about the event please visit:

<http://www.developmenteducation.org/conference2011/index.html>

Please send us feedback at:  
[Claudia.pedersen@wvi.org](mailto:Claudia.pedersen@wvi.org)

And visit our website at:  
[www.developmenteducation.org](http://www.developmenteducation.org)



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### News and events:

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- Political culture and International Development in the European Union
- EU Dev Days



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## YOUTH FORUM FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, Cluj Napoca



On the 8<sup>th</sup> September, as part of the **PeerUp!** Project, WVR organized the annual Youth Forum for pupils and students interested in international development. This year's theme focused on the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, regarding the maternal and child health. After the official debate attended by local authorities, young people participated in a two-day camp at Baisoara. For more information check the project's website:

[www.peer-up.ro](http://www.peer-up.ro)

## WORLD VISION ROMANIA'S AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA

World Vision Romania joins the international effort of fundraising for the affected children and families in Africa. The "Give a chance to life to the children in Africa!" campaign aims to offer to the Romanians the opportunity to help the Africa's vulnerable children. Their **donations** materialized in medical assurances, water and basic food which could save the life of numerous children. For more information please visit:

<http://www.worldvision.ro/daruieste-speranta-implicate-si-tu.php>



## WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE 2011

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, with the occasion of **International Day of Peace**, World Vision International awarded the **World Vision International Peace Prize to PATRIR** (Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania), during an official ceremony at the House of Parliament in Bucharest. The event brought together professionals, officialises and institutions who work together in order to build a stronger and more united society, capable of indentifying solutions and stop conflicts all around the globe. Yesim Oruc, the UNDP Romania Resident Representative, and representatives of the Ministry of External Affaires of Romania also attended the prize-giving ceremony.

More about the prize and the event:

<http://wvipaceprize.ning.com/>

<http://patrir.ro>



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### BUILDING A CHILD-FOCUSED REGIONAL COALITION IN THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA

The fourth edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum successfully took place in October in Bucharest. World Vision organized a special panel on child protection policies and cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Region. The panelists were presidents or coordinators of child-focused NGO coalitions from various countries from the Wider Black Sea Region: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Serbia.

The panel was inspired by a PABSEC (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Organisation <http://www.pabsec.org>) Recommendation, issued already many years ago (Recommendation 41/1999). This Recommendation showed that the protection and development of children 'is the prerequisite for the future development of the BSEC member countries' and called on the BSEC Member States to (among others): a) design appropriate strategies for partnership between governments, non-government organisations and the private sector in matters concerning child protection; b) to promote cooperation among the BSEC countries in the field of child protection, to encourage common studies and information sharing with a view to improving the legal and institutional framework relating to child protection in the BSEC Member Countries.

Indeed, in the Black Sea region, there are thousands of children living under especially difficult circumstances. The panelists discussed recent developments in the child protection field, as well as developments in the strategies of the child-focused NGO coalitions in each country. Given the common challenges that all countries in the region face in this field, the organisers proposed the idea of creating a child-focused Regional Coalition. The panelists and the panel participants agreed to work together on a TOR or a 'mandate' for a Regional Coalition. The 'Mandate' has been developed and it is now being discussed by the coordinating bodies of the national coalitions and other stakeholders. If all NGO coalitions represented at the Black Sea NGO Forum will decide to join the initiative the Regional Coalition will be a platform of representation for no less than 500 NGOs. For more information on our 'Mandate' please see the attached document. Should you be interested to support, contribute or be part of this initiative, please contact Mirela Oprea, [mirela.oprea@wvi.org](mailto:mirela.oprea@wvi.org).

### THE BLACK SEA NGO FORUM, BUCHAREST

The 4th edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum took place from 6th to 8th of October 2011 in Bucharest, Romania. During the event more than 200 participants from various countries (among which Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia) debated on the main regional issues and tried to find common solutions to the current local and regional problems. The event was organized by the Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND), with support of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Representation of the European Commission in Romania and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

More information about this event is available on the website:  
[www.blackseango.org](http://www.blackseango.org).



**Doru Romulus Costea**, State Secretary for Global Affairs  
**Olivia Baciu**, FOND President

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### POLITICAL CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

An explanatory study by Bogdan Mihai RADU, Ph.D, Babes-Bolyai University

*Successful democratic transition and consolidation requires, inter alia, the internalization of certain social and political (and perhaps economic) values by the citizenry, usually subsumed under the umbrella of political culture.*

See the full presentation here:

<http://www.developmenteducation.org/conference2011/resources/PoliticalCulture.pdf>

Democratic political culture is a subtype of the above concept, and refers to those values, beliefs and practices that are specific to citizens living in pluralist (liberal) democratic societies, and that reflect their perceptions and evaluations of the political system. In this research, I adopt a rather unconventional view of political culture, one transcending the boundaries of the nation state, and including "objects of support" specific to the international arena – such as international aid and cooperation for development. Thus, I explore political culture in the post-communist member states of the European Union, by looking at both its "national" and "transnational" dimension, and I aim to understand how support for core democratic values, such as freedom, equality or tolerance is constructed. In this research note in particular I reflect upon the differences and similarities of political culture in the RADC countries: Malta, Cyprus, Greece and Romania.

From a conceptual point of view, I bridge the gap between international relations and comparative politics, by constructing a theoretical framework that, while grounded in political culture, is applied to issues of foreign policy, which is appropriated primarily by international relations research. The intricate and complex relationship between domestic and international policy is subject to much debate, from both the "traditional" international relations camps and the more recent social constructivist groups. I employ Inglehart and Welzel's 2005 "human development sequence" as a starting point for constructing a model that integrates values and opinions at the core of political culture "proper" and views of the international system, especially support for international development and aid.

### European Development Days, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> December, Warsaw

Organised by the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, European Development Days (EDD) is Europe's premier forum on international affairs and development cooperation. The EDD 2011 will take place at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, Poland on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

For more information visit: [www.eudevdays.eu](http://www.eudevdays.eu)

A brief exploration of Eurobarometer 67.1 from 2007, the only one to include measures of political culture and of support for international development reveals yields interesting results. The first observation is that the percentages across countries are fairly similar. Not surprisingly, in both non and post communist parts of the group under study, „peace” is the value that enjoys the most support from all the respondents.

As reported elsewhere, post-communist citizenries value entrepreneurship and respect of history more while Western EU citizens value freedom of opinion, tolerance and solidarity more. These differences are interesting especially because they reflect differences along the lines of modernization/post-modernization. Another striking finding is that most citizens in the RADC group of countries are highly supportive of EU as a continent of culture, as a culture of diversity, as common history, except for Greece. Another table shows the differences between RADC countries in terms of reasons and goals that people believe are at the basis of involvement in international development.

Thus, while post-communist citizens of Romania believe that getting involved is motivated by the need to construct political allies and avoid emigration, citizens in the other countries believe that these reasons revolve around democracy spreading, helping the poor people, or self interested strategies – displaying large differences among them. Throughout this analysis Malta, Cyprus and Greece – the 3 RADC countries that are not post-communist – have values sometimes resembling closer the older member states (Euro pessimism for instance), while other times siding with the post-communist members states (for example in their lower support for freedom of opinion, diversity or gender equality).

This brief research note suggests that the ways in which attitudes towards domestic and international politics are formed are indeed complex processes, context contingent and yet loosely following broader modernization trends. Therefore, more in-depth, qualitative analysis should complement the analysis of survey data in order to understand better how political culture can become the link between comparative politics and international relations.

Inglehart, R., & Welzel, C. (2005). *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



Andris Piebalgs at EUDevDays

## **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.

"The Youth Civic Education and Community Participation" project aims to promote responsible citizenship and community participation for youth 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 has three objectives that lead to the main goal. These objectives are: 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.

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World Vision Romania is an active member of the Romanian NGDO platform, FOND, since its early beginning in 2006 and has been board member of FOND since 2008.

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### **Links:**

World Vision Romania:  
[www.worldvision.ro](http://www.worldvision.ro)

Raising Awareness for Development Cooperation  
[www.developmenteducation.org](http://www.developmenteducation.org)

PeerUp:  
[www.peer-up.ro](http://www.peer-up.ro)

The Romanian NGDO platform, FOND:  
[www.fondromania.org](http://www.fondromania.org)

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