

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 is happy to celebrate 20 years of being present and involved in the development of Romanian communities and of contributing to a better life for Romanian children and their families.

We are also honoured to support and promote the role of Romania as a new international donor and to contribute to building capacity for the major stakeholders in the field of development cooperation. We hope that through the projects of World Vision Romania we will facilitate a better collaboration among nongovernmental organizations, mass media, academia and the general public. In this sense, our two development education projects funded by the EU are aiming to raise awareness nationally on international solidarity and Romania's role as a New Member State in the EU.

We hope to receive your valuable feedback.

Anita Delhaas-van Dijk
National Director, World Vision Romania

WELCOME!

World Vision Romania welcomes you to the first newsletter for Romania, issued within the RADC project. The newsletter will be published every four months and will contain information related to international development cooperation and global education. It will also contain information on the specific activities of the RADC project that highlight: (a) a more experiential way of building public support for the MDG agenda and the fight against world poverty; and (b) a way of bringing universities and NGOs ever closer together.

We look forward to this regular meeting with our readers and also to receive your views and feedback.

Regards,
Claudia Iatan, Project Manager
Claudia_iatan@wvi.org



This project is funded by the European Union

World Vision Romania starts the "Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation" project

► World Vision Romania is implementing between January 2010 – January 2011 an international project named "Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation" (RADC) funded by Europe Aid Office. The project brings together NGOs and universities in Malta, Cyprus and Romania to strengthen the support of these countries' citizens in the fight against global poverty and to raise awareness on the historical context and scope of the EU international development cooperation policy.

The international consortium is made up by CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology), which is leading the international consortium, and the University of Nicosia from Cyprus, the University of Piraeus Research Center from Greece and World Vision Romania.

The project will offer the possibility to NGOs and universities to build their capacities together in order to get involved in helping the developing countries and to offer opportunities to those citizens who wish to commit themselves in the fight against world poverty.

Most importantly, the NGOs and universities will develop the first specialized curriculum on international development cooperation that can be implemented in Romanian universities or used by anyone interested in furthering their knowledge on international development cooperation. They will also elaborate and distribute an information toolkit (that will include abstracts of the courses, methodological suggestions regarding their implementation, list of resources, case studies etc), and deliver workshops, seminars and conferences for students, teachers, student organizations, volunteer centers and other NGOs interested in development issues.

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In Romania, this project is implemented by World Vision Romania.

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The curriculum will be made up of 8 modules of 4 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) each. Each module will correspond to one of the 8 Millennium Development Goals and will present educational and informational resources for every person interested in comprehending the international development cooperation field: academia, students, civil society representatives, public and local authorities' representatives, mass media and the general public.

The project is thus expected to bring about higher awareness of the general public regarding the values and the need of international solidarity and a higher level of involvement of the youth, civil society representatives, public and local authorities, academia and the general public in debates on development cooperation, and finally a better collaboration between universities and NGOs in the field of development cooperation.

25th May –press conference for the RADC project with the occasion of Africa Day

►Between the 25th and 29th May the Organization for Refugee Women in Romania (OFRR) organizes in Bucharest a five day festival meant to celebrate African countries and their culture.

On this occasion World Vision Romania is organizing the first press conference that officially launches the RADC project. The main purpose of the press conference is to influence people's opinions regarding development cooperation, the MDGs agenda, and topics such as poverty, climate change, gender, sustainable development, health and education for all, with particular reference to European policies on development cooperation.

Another aim is to inform on the project and project objectives as well as future results. The press releases and position papers will be disseminated to national and European educational institutions and will be used during future events organized in the field.

International Day of Africa in Bucharest

►In Romania there is a small African community (refugees, entrepreneurs and students) coming from almost all African countries. The ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity has always been fascinating for the Romanian people.

This is why, during these five days of celebration of the African diversity, various events will be organized in Bucharest such as photo exhibition, traditional art exhibition, an African market will be reconstructed so that

people can purchase traditional handcraft and foods, a concert of different African music will be organized, there will be film projections and various debates. These activities are trying to raise awareness on the situation of the African community among governmental institutions, mass media, nongovernmental organizations and the general public. This initiative is organized with the support of the Romanian NGDO platform, FOND and A.N.S.R. "AUR", a FOND member active in development education. The debates that these organizations will initiate are related to the fight against poverty and to fairer living and working conditions for the refugees.

Link to FOND:

www.fondromania.org



The term "Development Education" (as defined by the DE Forum during the 2004 annual meeting and endorsed by CONCORD during the General Assembly of November 2004) refers to an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. It enables people to move from basic awareness of international development priorities and sustainable human development, through understanding of the causes and effects of global issues to personal involvement and informed actions. Development education fosters the full participation of all citizens in world-wide poverty eradication, and the fight against exclusion. It seeks to build a more just and sustainable economic, social, environmental, human rights based national and international policies.

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World Vision Romania starts "Peer Up!" project in Cluj, Romania

► "Youth envisioning the future in Europe and Africa" – Peer Up! is a three year project funded by the European Commission and implemented by World Vision Romania, World Vision Austria and World Vision Germany.

The specific objectives of the project are to: strengthen capacity for innovative approaches to development awareness, empowering those of secondary school age in Germany, Austria and Romania to be engaged with development issues and take action in peer-to-peer education and campaigning activities to hold governments to account for delivering on different aspects of the MDGs.

The main activities are mainly related to the delivery of a multi-country development awareness programme, creating a core package for a different theme each year:

1. HIV/AIDS – 1st year;
2. Child and maternal health – 2nd year;
3. Food security – 3rd year.

The core package will contain teaching materials for lesson plans and how to take action packs covering peer- to -peer education and campaigning actions for teachers and young people.

Every year a Young Leaders' Forum will be organized and the issues addressed are: HIV & AIDS (2010), child and maternal health (2011) and food security (2012).

The specific activities in Romania are:

1. Adaptation of the core development awareness package, and ensure usage in schools and youth groups.
2. Involve 20 schools from Cluj area, with teachers and young people trained to use the materials.

3. Organize networking meetings with other NGOs and Development Education Platforms to discuss that the controversial topics of the right to reproductive health and HIV & AIDS can be addressed.

4. Organise an annual Young Leaders' Forum in the first two years of the project and an International Youth Forum in the last year of the project (young people from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and the Republic of Moldova will be invited to participate.)

A project that encourages youth from Africa and Europe to talk about international solidarity

www.worldvision.ro



About the Peer – to – Peer method

The applied method is based on a concept which, so far, has been mainly used in African contexts. Here, peers inform their peers about certain issues. Therefore, this method is called peer-to-peer education and is based on the assumption that a 15-year-old knows best how another 15-year-old wants to be informed about HIV AIDS for example. The concrete way of handing information on to others can be chosen freely by the peers: they can, for example, conduct normal school class teaching, practice a theatre play; they can organize bazaars with thematic focuses or discussion panels; they can compose and record music pieces or create videos that they can upload online.



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The NGO Forum Romania – Republic of Moldova Iasi – Chisinau, 3rd-6th May

► The NGO Forum was organized by the Romanian NGDO platform FOND with the financial support of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it was attended by around 100 nongovernmental organizations representatives from both Romania and Republic of Moldova.

The purpose of the event was to improve the communication and cooperation between the NGOs from the two neighboring countries. The objectives of the event were to; a) define a common agenda for 2010-2015, b) identify common priorities; c) establish the cooperation framework and identify the first common short-term and long-term actions.

Romania is new member of the EU and a recent international donor. Republic of Moldova is a priority country within the national development cooperation strategy. The cooperation between the two countries has long been established throughout Cross Border Cooperation programs, Soros funded projects or other international donors such as the Black Sea Trust. This year Romania will grant a financial aid to R. Moldova worth of 100 million Euros for the next 4 years. It is expected that Romania will start operating consistent financial programs in R. Moldova, including at the civil society level. These programs will focus mainly on the efforts of European integration. In the same time, Romania has concrete external political interests with the R. Moldova and the consultation with the civil society is meant to facilitate the formulation and implementation of efficient cooperation policies.

The Romanian Development Camp 2010

► With support from the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Romanian NGDO Platform, FOND is organizing, the third edition of the Romanian Development Camp which will take place in June.

This year's edition will focus on national efforts towards achieving the MDGs on time. It is clear that significant progress has been made in Romania but it is uneven and slow.

The event is a good opportunity to raise awareness at national level on the challenges of fulfilling the ODA commitments and for identifying more concrete co-operation opportunities.

Romania's know how in offering development assistance is still novel so the requisite in capacity building of stakeholders and their interaction is still actual though, hence it will be a good opportunity of exchange of information and experience of new and old member states, reviews of regional, European and world-wide priorities and challenges in the area of development, with focus on the Romanian process of reaching the ODA commitments.

EU's Action Plan to speed up the progress towards achieving the MDGs'

► On 21/04/2010 the European Commission has adopted an ambitious action plan for EU action to speed up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2009, the EU aid level has slightly decreased and amounted €49bn. This corresponds to 0.42% of EU GNI, making the EU still far from meeting the intermediate collective target of 0.56% GNI by 2010, before reaching 0.7% EU GNI by 2015. The EU remains the most generous global donor, providing more than half of global aid.

The Commission proposes to Member States a number of actions in support of MDGs. They aim at increasing the level of aid while making aid more efficient and focused on those countries and sectors most in need. The action plan sets out a possible EU position ahead of the UN Summit on the MDGs in September 2010.

What exactly would change?

→ EU countries would be called upon to produce annual action plans indicating how they will reach the 2015 targets, and to organise a yearly peer review.

→ The member countries and the Commission should work together even more closely in developing countries to make EU aid more effective.

→ All EU policies would be made coherent for development - trade and finance, climate change, food security, migration and security are all part of the fight against poverty.

→ Targeted aid would focus on the goals and countries where progress is slow, particularly fragile states.

→ The EU would develop further its partnerships with poor countries to combat climate change, rising food prices and migration, and to achieve security and financial stability.

Who would benefit and how?

→ Directly: hundreds of millions of people living in poverty, whose health and standard of living would be improved.

→ Indirectly: everyone. The well-being of people in developing countries benefits Europeans as well.

More information here:

http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/achieving_mdg_en.cfm

CARDET

<http://www.cardet.org>

KOPIN

<http://www.kopin.org>

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

<http://www.whiteband.org>

<http://aod.ro/>

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

<http://www.um.edu.mt>

SKOP – THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF MALTESE NGDOs

<http://www.skopmalta.org>

UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA

<http://www.unic.ac.cy>

UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS RESEARCH CENTER

<http://www.kep.unipi.gr>

Background information

World Vision Romania is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by Christian values, World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision Romania is a partner of World Vision International, present in more than 100 countries in the world. Since 1990, World Vision started to work in Romania continuously, becoming one of the most important Christian, child – focused, and community - based NGOs in Romania, in major areas like community development and child protection. The programs are carried on in seven counties: Cluj, Constanta, Dolj, Iasi, Ialomita, Valcea and Vaslui and in Bucharest, the city capital of Romania.

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



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