

Newsletter

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Pentru Voi
FOUNDATION

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“Pentru Voi” launches the project “Social Economy, a chance for people with intellectual disabilities

„Pentru Voi” Foundation, in partnership with “Friends of Hope” Foundation in Holland, started on 1st July, the project “Social Economy - a chance for people with intellectual disabilities”, which aims to promote at national level the social inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities, based on the social economy mechanisms.

The project, with a duration of three years, is co-financed by the European Social Fund through Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007 - 2013 — “Invest in People”, and aims to promote the social inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities, the concept of social economy in the field of intellectual disability and the capacity development in the field of social entrepreneurship of operators in the South-Western development region. Also, we wish to develop the Protected Unit “Pentru Voi” and the social services offered by „Pentru Voi” Foundation, as competitive structures of social economy and instruments for the creation of new work placements.

Timișoara understands and accepts autism

The project, launched by the „Pentru Voi” Foundation in partnership with the City Hall of Timișoara, lasts from July until October and aims to prepare the residents of Timișoara to understand and accept within their community the individuals with autism.

The anti-stigmatization campaign, as part of the project “Autism doesn’t disappear at 18!”, includes a show in the Union Square (see the next article) and a concert performed by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Timișoara. The concert is followed by an international congress „Autism doesn’t disappear at 18!”, which will take place in Timișoara, between 11-13 October, and will present speakers from European countries, experienced professionals of the field.



“Pentru Voi” Spectacle

„Pentru Voi” Foundation in partnership with Timișoara City Hall, and Vodafone Romania Foundation, organized on 24 July, in the Union Square in Timișoara the „Pentru Voi” Show: Autism does not disappear at 18!

The show addresses the understanding and acceptance of the general public towards individuals with autism, and is included in the agenda of the project „Timișoara the Small Vienna”, organized by the City Hall of Timișoara.

The show included folk songs and gypsy dances performed by the **Vocal-Instrumental Group „Pentru Voi”** - with main artists two adults with autism, modern and ballroom dances performed by the **Dance Club Magnum VRD**, a recital performed by **Hollywood Band**, and in the end, an incendiary performance set in stage by **Hi-Q**.



International Conference at Timișoara: „It’s time for change! Autism and social inclusion”

The conference is organized by “Pentru Voi” Foundation and the International SOFT Federation, in the framework of the project „Autism doesn’t disappear at 18!” and will take place at Hotel Timișoara, between 12 and 13 of October 2009.

The conference focuses on the transfer of explicit knowledge with regards to the enhancement of the social inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities, drawing attention to the particular case of Romania where support services for adults with autism are practically inexistent. In the world wide context of mobilizing all forces so that the problem of autism to be acknowledged and adequately treated, the conference will benefit from the great contribution of renowned European specialists: Julie Bedle Brown - Kent University in Great Britain, Susane Collins - Cambridge University, Great Britain, prof. Hans Krober, Holland.

National Conference for Self-Advocates

„Pentru Voi” Foundation has the pleasure of inviting individuals with developmental disabilities, having the quality of self-advocates, to the fourth edition of the National Conference for Self-Advocates “Employment of persons with developmental disabilities”. The event will take place at Hotel Parc in Mamaia, on 2-3 September and is organized in the framework of the project “Social Economy - a chance for people with intellectual disabilities”, co-financed by the European Social Fund through Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007-2013 — “Invest in People”.



Autism Film Festival 2009

The first Autism Film Festival in Romania was organized by „Pentru Voi” Foundation, as part of the anti-stigmatization campaign “Autism doesn’t disappear at 18!”

The Film Fest presented three movies about love and suffering, acceptance and stigmatization, pain and hope, movies which tried to get the public closer to a different world - the world of people with autism: The Black Balloon, Mozart and the Whale, Snow cake. We thank our partners, „Politehnica” University of Timișoara and West University Timișoara.

Support groups for parents

Until now we organised three support groups for the families of our beneficiaries. If the first meeting aimed to familiarize the parents with this type of activity and helped them to reduce the tension, the other two meetings focused on issues important to be approached in the work with persons with autism, independent life activities, work etc.



Symposium for the General Practitioners in Timișoara

„Pentru Voi” Foundation organized on 16 May, the symposium with the theme “Autism doesn’t disappear at 18!” in the framework of the project with the same title.



25 general practitioners and residents from Timis County took part at this event. The discussion topics included the Autism Spectrum Disorder, various methods and instruments to identify and measure different forms of ASD.

The symposium aimed to accustom the participants with the main medical and psychiatric problems of patients with pervasive development disorders, means of care and support.


Debates session regarding practices and experiences towards professional integration of persons with disabilities

“Pentru Voi” Foundation and the National Organization of People with Handicap in Romania organized on 19 July, at Boavista Hotel in Timișoara, a round table to debate the experiences and practices regarding the professional inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The event is part of the project "Creation and implementation of the integrated model of evaluation, professional formation and employment of people with disabilities in Romania", implemented by The National Institute for Prevention and Fighting against Social Exclusion of People with Handicap, together with organizations from Austria and Romania. The participants were experts from the implementation team of the project, AJOFM and DGASPC representatives, professional formation providers, employers and NGOs dedicated to people with disabilities, from the South-Western Region—Oltenia.



Ten thousand rolls Pentru Voi



The program was initiated by „Pentru Voi” Foundation with the financial help of Vodafone Romania Foundation, with the purpose of supporting disadvantaged social groups or in a current state of poverty. Between April and December 2009, ten thousand rolls are offered to organizations and institutions in Timiș County, which provide social services to people in a state of poverty. The rolls are made by adults with intellectual disabilities employees of the „Pentru Voi” Protected Unit Bakery.

Partnership for inclusion with the Banat Museum

The Protected Unit “Pentru Voi” and the Banat Museum signed a contract on 25 May, during a press conference at the Timiș County Council.

“It is for the first time when a cultural institution initiates this kind of collaboration with the Protected Unit „Pentru Voi”, which has 65 employees - persons with intellectual disabilities. We hope that this model will be followed by other public institutions” declared Laila Onu”, CEO of “Pentru Voi” Foundation.

*** Flash news ***

5 May, The European Day of Fighting against the discrimination of people with disabilities

The Institute for Public Politics and “Pentru Voi” Foundation launched the study “Plea for transparency and responsibility in the financing of social services for people with mental disabilities in Romania”. This research was realized with the help of Open Society Mental Health Initiative.

www.pentruvoi.ro has a new outfit!

Our new website is dynamic , has a friendly and modern interface, with numerous web applications, an aerated and accesible structure for all Internet users. The site is bilingual and includes an easy-to-read version — still under construction. The largest part of the photos integrated in the web-site belong to Cristian Tzecu, photographer and friend of “Pentru Voi” Foundation.

The Vice President of the German Parliament visited Pentru Voi

Susanne Kastner, the Vice President of the German Parliament and the President of the Parliamentary Group of Friendship Romania-Germany from Bundestag, and a German delegation visited “Pentru Voi” on 4 June. The Vice President was impressed by the activities developed by the Day Centre “Together”.



The Dutch and Romanian Volunteers worked together "Pentru Voi"

Paul Wansink and Henry Schutte, representatives of WACR, organized between 11-22 July 2009, a summer school for 24 Dutch youngsters. Together with other 12 enthusiastic young Romanians, volunteers at "Pentru Voi", worked to renovate the houses of 7 families, beneficiaries of our foundation. The project, initiated two years ago by WACR, has significantly improved the life of our beneficiaries. The persons interested in volunteering opportunities at "Pentru Voi" are asked to contact us pentruvoi@pentruvoi.ro



The Euro Parliamentary Elections in easy-to-read language

Close to the Euro—Parliamentary Elections organised on 7 June, „Pentru Voi” Foundation edited the brochure „Euro—Parliamentary Elections 2009”, in an easy to understand language, in order to explain the election process to people with developmental disabilities. The brochures were electronically sent to all Social Assistance and Child Protection Departments in Romania in order to be used as informational material. Similar materials were edited in all of the 27 countries of the European Union, through Inclusion Europe, a federation which comprises the „Pentru Voi” Foundation.

„Pentru Voi” at the National Special Olympics Buzău 2009

Eli, Ghizela, Eugenia and Alina, beneficiaries of the „Pentru Voi” Foundation, took part to the National Games Special Olympics in Buzău between 3-6 June. Our team, coordinated by the sport instructors Zina Costin and Claudia Turcu, obtained medals for all the competitions they participated: Eli - 1st Place at basketball—individual abilities, Ghizela - 2nd Place at basketball—individual abilities, Eugenia - 2nd Place at bocce, Alina - 3rd Place at bocce. At this event took part 180 sportsmen, 45 delegations from 32 counties, representing special schools, associations and foundations.



Pentru Voi Summer schools for persons with developmental disabilities

The first summer camp was organized between 6 and 12 June at Râul Alb for 30 adults with severe intellectual disabilities and challenging behaviour, beneficiaries of the Day Centre „Ladislau Tácsi”. The next summer schools took place at Poieni Strâmbu between 27 July-2 August, and Sasca Montană between 17-24 August, for the beneficiaries of the Day Centre “Together”.

The Cultural Festival in Debrecen, Ungaria

The “Pentru Voi” vocal-instrumental group participated between 19-21 July at the Cultural Festival for Persons with Disabilities, at Debrecen, Hungary. The participants represented more than 50 organisations from Eastern Europe. Our group performed a Romanian traditional song, accompanied by Vicentiu Orban, student at the Highschool of Music in Timisoara, and conducted by the specialised educator Rodica Atănăsoaie.

Training session with Pro Vobis on “Volunteer Management”

“Pentru Voi” attended between 24-29 May at the training session “Volunteer Management” organised by ProVobis at Cluj, in the framework of the project “Institutional development of the organisations that works with volunteers”. The training focused on the step-by-step training of volunteers, emphasizing through theoretical presentations, case studies, practical activities, and short movies.



We thank to our volunteers for their involvement and dedication!!!