



1st newsletter

DEAR STUDENT Project




THE PROJECT

The **DEAR STUDENT Project** is a European Project implemented by a partnership (14) located in six European countries (**Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain**). The 14 partners composed a complementary experienced mix of European Local Authorities (LA) or LAs Funds and Non State Actor with experience in Development Education and Raising Awareness activities in collaboration with Educational system and organizations.

The aim of the project is the **empowerment of LAs so that they can be more aware of the importance of their role in sustainable human development processes** and in the achievement of their citizens' active engagement through the encouragement of **the implementation of Development Education and Raising Awareness (DEAR) approach both in formal education in primary and secondary schools and in public policies.**

The current context of global crisis more and more connotes the rise of social and territorial inequalities and questions the growing challenges to keep and reinforce sustainable human development processes. In this context, we underline **the need to steadily reaffirm and head for political and social models more coherent with eradication of poverty and inequalities.** In order to support these positive changes, the involvement of Local authorities is a fundamental key since local level constitutes a suitable framework in which citizens, local civil society entities and local authorities (LAs) can act together to promote activities which consequences have a wider involvement and commitment of civil society.




Nonetheless, public commitment in favour of sustainable human development is still insufficient. It is therefore **fundamental to foster civil active participation reinforcing awareness raising and education development (DEAR) on development issues.** The consciousness on these matters and the need to pass on values and principles coherent with this approach must be developed from early ages **so that sustainable human development can be considered as a basic standard right to which every people can individually aim at as well as collectively claim for.**

In this context, **the educative system is the first place where knowledge, values and principles are provided and thus have a direct influence on the construction of personal attitudes, concerns and interest toward peers** and an increasingly more globalized environment. Educative system is thus also a suitable framework in which it is possible to transversally spread development education matters and to encourage the understanding of global challenges to fight social, economic and environmental imbalances.

For these reasons the project contributes to **the reinforcement of the commitment of LAs, in cooperation with local Non State Actors (NSA), for the promotion of sustainable human development policies at local level,** enhancing, on one hand, local multi-stakeholders cooperation to **promote an active and involved citizenship in relation to the fight against poverty, inequalities and social and economical exclusion,** and, on another hand, fostering a **consensus with educative board** (teacher, parents, territorial education institutions, etc.) **so that youngsters can benefit, in formal education, from the introduction of transversal matters dealing with sustainable human development.**

THE PARTNERSHIP

<p>The Milan Province Fund for International Cooperation (FPMCI) is composed by over 30 Local Authorities and over fifty entities including many Milan NGOs, Universities, public companies, foundations and associations. It provides to all Local Authorities interested in international solidarity technical and organizational support, and information and promotes interrelations between Local Authorities from Milan Region and communities from different areas (North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia e Egypt); Sub Sahara (Niger and Senegal) ; Central America (Haiti and Dominican Republic); Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan).</p> <p>FPMCI's philosophy of intervention is overlapping decentralized cooperation, local development and giving the main role to LAs as actors of decentralized cooperation.</p>	<div data-bbox="901 353 1380 470" style="text-align: right;">  <p>Fondo Provinciale Milanese per la Cooperazione Internazionale</p> </div> <p>The organisation stakes on sustainable and reproducible development in a human, economical and environmental sense. It hands down the best practices by enhancing the excellences of Milan territory. It believes that today Local Authorities can represent great actors of cooperation and effective agents of local development, so it is working for and with them.</p>
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<p>FELCOS Umbria (the Fund of Local Authorities for Decentralized Cooperation and Human Sustainable Development) is an association of Local Authorities which aims to promote sustainable human development through decentralized cooperation and the creation of partnerships between different territories in the worlds.</p> <p>FELCOS Umbria promotes the participation and involvement of local authorities and other public, private and associative actors of its territory, by creating a network for decentralized cooperation and mobilizing resources, both in terms of good practice and financial means. Its main goal is to strengthen the capacity of local governments and territories for human development, to support the processes of human development in the context of national policies of their respective countries and contribute to the implementation of the Millennium development Goals.</p>	<div data-bbox="821 1108 1404 1288" style="text-align: right;">  <p>FELCOS UMBRIA Fondo di Enti Locali per la Cooperazione decentrata e lo Sviluppo umano sostenibile</p> </div> <p>FELCOS represents a methodological, planning and operational framework of reference capable of promoting local policies for effective decentralized cooperation and facilitating the articulation of this regional network for decentralized cooperation with the on going initiatives at national, European and international levels, and with the broadest strategies of support of human development promoted by the United Nations, as, for example, the ART Initiative of UNDP.</p> <p>Furthermore the association is engaged in promoting actions inside its territory to raise the awareness of the local population on human development, fight against poverty, social inclusion, environment, human rights and other related questions.</p>
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ACRA-CCS is an independent, nonreligious non-governmental organization dedicated to development cooperation, specifically rural development. It focuses on poverty alleviation through sustainable, innovative and participatory solutions. Key words of their work are dignity, durability, equity, innovation, justice, participation, respect, responsibility, rights, sobriety, solidarity, transparency and trust. ACRA-CCS intervenes in various thematic areas: natural resources & environment, water & sanitation, food, education, economic development and health. They operate in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

ACRA-CCS's Development Education approach is based on the definition CONCORD: an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. In Italy and Europe, ACRA-CCS fosters Education for Global Citizenship programs, facilitating among citizens, especially



young people, a deeper understanding of the interdependence of local and global processes, thus enabling people to better contribute to the fight against hunger and social exclusion, favouring the promotion of human rights and the adoption of sustainable lifestyles. 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, towards personal involvement and informed actions.

The Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR), previously named the Romanian Municipalities Federation (FMR), was set up in 1990 by 30 founding associate members (municipalities) as an organization dedicated to local authorities support and representation. The Romanian Municipalities Association includes presently all the 103 municipalities and the six districts of Bucharest Municipality (109 member-municipalities). The Romanian Municipalities Association is a legal person of private right, without patrimonial aim, non-governmental and apolitical, established in view of promoting and protecting the common interests of the local public administration authorities, aiming to solve and manage the public needs in the name and for the benefit of the local communities.

Mission:

- To represent the members' interests at national and international level;
- To stimulate and support members' initiatives and



- To support members' efforts engaged in the process of Romania's integration in European Union (EU).

AMR supports the local government reform, is developing cooperation relationships with various associations in Romania and supports its members in initiating and developing partnerships and twinning relationships with local communities from other countries.

AMR supports the involvement of municipalities from Romania in various projects and partnerships with European financing in fields of interest and actions/initiatives/projects related to energy efficiency and climate change.

Starting with 2009, AMR is a supporting structure

<p>activities; - To provide professional services to the members;</p>	<p>for the Covenant of Mayors implementation in Romania.</p>
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<p>APEL was established in 2006 as a specialized service for the professional integration of the persons in a situation of social exclusion. The aim of the services provided by APEL included activities of consultancy and analysis of the work market, activities of personnel assessment in the performed programs, services for the monitoring of the migration phenomenon in Romania.</p> <p>The Association placed networking, the building of communication and exchange bridges between the social, economic and administrative sectors at the basis of its intervention. In such respect collaboration protocols were established with various public institutions, the national Employment Agency (ANOFM), the National Youth Agency (ANT), the Children’s Protection General Directorate (DGPC) and other social assistance territorial services, but also the adhesion to chambers of commerce. Moreover, APEL is founding member of C.I.A.O. – Comitate Italiano Associazioni e ONG, and is part of social networks such as FONPC – the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children,</p>	<div data-bbox="893 403 1300 683" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>RENASIS – the National Anti-Poverty– and Social Inclusion Network (EAPN), the GEN Network (Gender Equality Network) and RONOR – the Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Occupations of Romania.</p> <p>As of 2008, APEL started a new stage in the development of the skills and scope of business which targets the integration of third countries nationals (TCNs) in the Romanian society, by the supply of services of counseling and information (access to the labor market, access to medical services, access to education). Thus, a step further was taken regarding the investment in the human resources existing in Romania and in the improvement of intercultural relationships forming skills, and experimenting new ways of finding other forms of balance and social intervention.</p>
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<p>Caritas Bucharest Association was set up in 1990 as a non-governmental entity meant to contribute in the eradication of the problems affecting the human life and dignity.</p> <p>Under the context of the continuous social challenges and needs, Caritas Bucharest defines its existence for the support of the disadvantaged communities, poor families, sick persons, children with disabilities or lacking parental care, old people having no family support and any other person in vulnerable or difficult situation.</p> <p>Caritas Bucharest is a member of Caritas Romania</p>	<div data-bbox="869 1500 1372 1736" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • home for children and youth lacking parental in the ‘St. John’ family type residential center • access to free medication for poor persons through the Social Pharmacy • hot meals for elderly, poor children and families through the Social Centre (social
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<p>Confederation and of COATNET (Network of Christian Organizations against Trafficking).</p> <p>Their vision, as inspired by Caritas International vision, is guided towards creating a civilization of love and solidarity by actively participating in the development of the Romanian civil society and by involving in the eradication of poverty eradication, inequalities and injustice – contributing in the stable and sustainable development of the entire Romanian society.</p> <p>Currently, the activity of Caritas Bucharest is focused on several major areas (psychosocial, medical and educational), developing complex programs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing access to educational and therapy programs for children in the Day Center for children with disabilities (Down Syndrome), 	<p>canteen and laundry),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for poor children to prevent school dropout and family abandonment through the Distance support program, • access for old and sick people to medical services through the Home medical care center, • Information, training and campaigns under the Trafficking prevention program in schools and communities from the human right approach • Interventions in emergency situation (in case of natural calamities).
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<p>The Vukovar-Srijem County is situated at the very north-east of Croatia, between rivers Danube and Sava and comprises historic regions Eastern Slavonia and Western Srijem (Syrmia). It covers an area of 2448 km². The local countryside is mainly flat, its highest peak being Čakula near the city of Ilok (294 meters above sea level), and the lowest peak at Spačva in Posavina (78 m). In the east, the slopes of Fruška Gora Mountain gently transform into the Vukovar plain, while in the west from the Dilj Mountain the Vinkovci-Đakovo plain stretches.</p> <p>There are important river and land paths in this area as well as the international traffic routes intersection from the east towards the west next to the Danube and from the north over the Sava towards the Adriatic Sea. Klisa Airport as well as sport airport in the cities of Vinkovci and Vukovar.</p> <p>Thanks to exceptionally fertile soil, favourable climatic conditions, an abundance of natural resources and its good traffic position, this region</p>	<div data-bbox="970 943 1225 1294" data-label="Image"> <p>The coat of arms of Vukovarsko-Srijemska županija is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the text 'VUKOVARSKO-SRIJEMSKA ŽUPANIJA' is written in blue. The central part of the shield depicts a brown stag with large, branching antlers, standing on a green patch of ground. To the right of the stag is a green tree. The background of the shield consists of horizontal stripes: blue at the top, green in the middle, and blue at the bottom. The shield is mounted on a blue, speech-bubble-like base.</p> </div> <p>has been inhabited since ancient times. According to the census conducted in 2001, there are 197,838 inhabitants in the county. Now reside 180.117 inhabitants in the County.</p> <p>The Vukovar-Srijem County has 84 residential areas, 5 of which are cities (Vukovar, Ilok, Vinkovci, Županja and Otok) and 26 municipalities. Characteristic of this region are many large villages with a few thousands of inhabitants.</p>
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Croatian Institute for Local Government (HILS) works on promotion and development of local government in the Republic of Croatia and the training of local government to manage their own functioning and development.

The mission of HILS is capacity-building of local government units, raising motivation and citizen participation in local policy-making. In pursuing that mission, HILS performs education, consultations, publishing of expert literature, management of online databases and libraries, and dissemination of information. Most activities are implemented within projects related to the development of local government, creation of public policies, active citizenship, multi-sectoral cooperation, democracy and civil society. In the past 15 years, HILS is mostly oriented to EU funds and have successfully carried out numerous projects aimed at active participation of citizens, inclusion of marginalized groups, rural development, transparent governance and others, supported by European commission, international and national donors.



HILS' membership consists of 125 members, of which 12 are legal entities, including counties, cities, faculties and public institutions. Majority of individual members are scientists and experts in different aspects of local governance.

HILS is a member of the Regional Forum of NGOs of Slavonia and Baranja, Working together for development network (WTD), The Community Network (MLR), a member of the international network LOGIN dealing with democratization, a member of the European network of organizations for the training of Local and Regional Authorities (ENTO) and cooperates successfully with members of the networks concerned with exchange of ideas, information, good practice, etc. HILS is a member of the Working Body for decentralization and territorial reorganization of the Ministry of Public Administration.

Vratsa Municipality is situated in the North-western part of Bulgaria with a territory of 697km². According to the number of the population the Municipality is on the 16th place in the country with 85 215 citizens. Its territory includes part of the Danube plain and the front part of the Balkan.

Town Vratsa is not only a municipality but a district centre, too, and it is the biggest settlement in the North-western Bulgaria. Vratsa is the cross point of two of the biggest European transport corridors. Its strategic location will become even more important with the construction of Danube Bridge 2 at Vidin.

The Municipality offers Municipal center for services and information; services for the town



In Vratsa Municipality there is well developed system of educational institutions – 17 kindergartens, 20 schools /primary, secondary , high and professional/, a youth house and a centre for children. Education in Bulgaria is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. Bulgarian educational system consists of three grade levels – primary /first to fourth grade/, secondary/ fifth to seventh grade / and high / eight

<p>planning –projects for investment initiative, evaluation of estates, ecology; municipal property – registration of trading places, issuance of certificates on registration regimes, keeping record of the persons needing a house; services for civil status; educational, cultural, social and health institutions support.</p>	<p>to twelfth grade/ .Children are enrolled for first grade at the age of six and seven. The Municipality is responsible for the schools and kindergartens buildings, kids and pupils transport, children’s health and financial transfers.</p>
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<p>Municipality of Dimitrovgrad is the basic administrative-territorial unit, which implements the local self-government. It is established with a Decree No.2294 on 26 December 1978 issued by the State Council of Republic of Bulgaria. It is located in the South part of Bulgaria and it is one of municipalities that form the Haskovo District. The Municipality itself is established by 27 different locations. The Geographical location of the municipality makes it an important transport junction in the South part of the country.</p> <p>Municipality of Dimitrovgrad is a legal entity and as such disposes a significant number of buildings and facilities – municipal property, for the condition of which it is obligated to take care using budget and borrowed funding. This property includes Municipal Infrastructure objects with local importance for the administrative needs of the Municipality such as health, educational, cultural, commercial, residential, sports and communal service.</p> <p>The structure of the Municipal Administration is divided on Municipal Managing Body, General and Specialized Administration and some other structures located outside of the Municipal Administration.</p>	<div data-bbox="963 600 1238 920" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Dimitrovgrad is remarkable for its stylish architecture which met the standards of the Roman Empire, with spacious streets and large parks. It is one of the most green cities in Bulgaria. There are three large parks with about 15 lakes, dozens of species of rare trees, shrubs and flowers, sculptures, gazebos and water cascades. The obsolescence of the old industrial plants has challenged since many years the policy makers and local community to find new and more sustainable activities, also to create new jobs.</p>
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Paideia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization in public interest established in 1999 and aimed at supporting the modernization of Bulgarian education.

Paideia Foundation focuses on two main strands in its activities:

Raising the quality of education by innovative and adapting educative programs which ensure the young Bulgarians civic education competences and skills for a successful realization in the dynamic and highly

Attracting wide public support for the modernization of Bulgarian education by involving all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, managers, business and civic organizations) in school education policies and actions

FP has a significant experience in:

- Development of education resources for education purposes in electronic and paper version
- Networking for education cause (756 Bulgarian schools from all 28 regions in the country,



are members of the National school network “European lessons”

- Teacher’s non-formal training in European politics and EU life long learning programs for modern civic society development
- Research and analysis in the field of school drop-out prevention, school good governance after decentralization of education system governance, Bulgarian teachers qualification, Compliance Analysis of the national curricula for social sciences and civic education Bulgarian public schools network optimization, etc.

The Municipality of Sao Brás de Alportel is among the municipalities of the Algarve region – Portugal - those who in the past five years has grown in terms of population.

Being at this moment with a population of around 11,000 inhabitants where a significant number of this consists of young couples with children in pre-school and school age.

The Municipality of Brás is formally a public local authority, and so the mission of responses to the roles and responsibilities which are legally impaired, in accordance with Law 169/99 of 18 September. Its areas of intervention, in accordance with that law, namely:



Urban planning, environment, sanitation, infrastructure several, culture, sports, education, social intervention, tourism and economic development.

<p>In Loco Association, celebrating its 25 years of existence, has the mission to promote local development in order to achieve a better quality of life in its multiple dimensions, having as horizon a participated, supportive and sustainable world.</p> <p>The association organizes its actions around five strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifying and enriching people and organizations; • Qualifying and enriching the intervention territory in a sustainable perspective; • Promoting acting and supportive citizenship; • Encourage and support entrepreneurship and local initiative; • Producing necessary knowledge to support the intervention. 	<div data-bbox="842 226 1353 398" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>In Loco has developed its action in multiple intervention areas always with a territorial approach and citizenship promotion, making use of participatory methodologies and to ensure the involvement of the local population and all the pertinent actors, working in cooperation and establishing several partnerships. In Loco has developed projects in social intervention, education and adult training, promotion of rural tourism and local products, among others.</p>
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<p>The Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI) is a network of Local Authorities (75 Municipalities, 7 County Councils 3 Groups of Municipalities and other foundations) and other private and public institutions (more than 50 collaborating entities from civil society) founded in 2.000 to coordinate and promote the public decentralized international cooperation carried out by local governments in Andalusia.</p> <p>The final objective of FAMSI is to promote a fairer world from the cooperation of the local governments and the Andalusian solidarity, by means of coordination, participation and network articulation processes.</p> <p>In this sense, FAMSI promotes institutional strengthening and the capacity building in the South countries as a result of the decentralized cooperation experience in Andalusia.</p>	<div data-bbox="815 978 1385 1151" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The two key concepts of FAMSI's Philosophy are that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The local authorities are the active actors of the international cooperation and the development. 2. The strengthening of the local powers and the promotion of the development is a priority of the international cooperation. <p>FAMSI links the Andalusian decentralized cooperation actors with other ones in other countries in the South and the North and with communities dealing with socioeconomic development processes, having the support of the international cooperation.</p>
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NEWS

On last 25 and 26 of April 2013, the partners of the DEAR STUDENT project hold their 1st Steering Committee Meeting in Seville, Spain.

During this meeting, the partners presented themselves and discussed about the activities to implement to reach the objectives of the project. Andalusian Local Authorities also explained how they promote DEAR activities in secondary schools in order to empower conscientiousness and young active citizenship in favour of fight against poverty and social exclusion.



The DEAR STUDENT partnership also chose the institutional image of the project:

