

## **The project Socrates/Grundtving2-Eliminate Poverty-Development of the entrepreneurial spirit in rural areas through ITC and business**

The report of the first partners visit Bucharest Romania 15-19 February 2006

### **Partners project meeting:**

#### **First day of visit 16.02.2006**

I.

On the day of 16 February 2006, in the morning, the partners implicated in the Project participated to a round table, at the headquarter of AFR. The day of 16 February 2006 was the first day of work within the framework of the project "Eliminate poverty".

The discussions began with the presentation of each partner activity within the project, developed since August 2005 to February 2006.

AFR presented its campaign in the frame of the project "Eliminate poverty" and showed the poster produced as part of the national strategy developed in Romania.

The main issues of discussions were related to the strategies that have to be adopted in order to have maximum efficacy with the project aims.

The following ideas were discussed during the meeting:

1. the development of the website created by the Polish partner;
2. elaboration of a common leaflet; each country presents the draft;
3. comparison of best practice e.g.: result in each country  
Identify something to apply in each country: a production of a product in order to be sold (the proposal of Dagmar).

In the process of production we have to name a person for IT organization and a trainer. Another person for entrepreneurial solutions;

- educate people to help to implement the solutions in the rural areas depending on different situation in each partner country
- "Woman as an important factor:" fight for their welfare";
- The example given by Gertrude about finding a motto e.g. "Meet in Austria" for a project sustaining the development of tourism;
- Idea : use the national products(change mentality);
- Made at home : using the proudness of people;
- Products from home are ecological, healthy, good;
- We can start and continue to develop shops with ecological products/natural;
- Be creative : e.g.: painters/carpet sets/ceramics/pottery-producing a logo, but selling very few trying to reinvent the utility;
- Another proposal in order to avoid the poverty in rural area, we can establish "self employed persons" e.g.: each client can ask for a special model ("personalized pottery")
- Train one small group of people from rural area / local areas in order to help the people through consulting in the field of business ;
- Another idea : it is impossible for a handicraft person to do all jobs: producing, designing, selling;- he/she needs for a person help.

Furthermore, we train people and in this way we help people to gain money ;

- Small pensions-managed by women for small prices/ more and more guests; E.g.: Maramures : business in educating farmers;
- In Austria: agricultural policies (in winter it is organized a school for farmers);
- Important is the communication : network of mobile phone, internet development, applications on computer, e.g. “telehouses” in Hungary =net café;

Quality management of products lacks sometimes. We are confronted with mass quality system applied by the government.

-associations in the rural areas: the problem of mentalities;

Problem: we cannot change mentalities over night!

We cannot cover an entire country area

We have no “incubation “house

We lack financial support in order to develop a national strategy concerning elimination of poverty.

Follow up plan in the second year of the project:

**ONE CONCEPT** of the program , meaning that all ideas are included and they are presented and then implemented, in a single form.

How could we achieve our aims in the second year?

- we must be very clear about our target: use small groups of women and men from different rural areas of our countries;
- to engage young people to return to their native areas and encourage them to create their own business;
- in order to understand the reality in the village world, it is important not to speak only with experts , but speak with common people. We could have as motto the following words :” do not wait for something; do something “;

#### **METHODS:**

- Continue with questionnaires in order to discover the needs of the rural population ;
- Attract other public or private organizations involved in the domain of rural areas, as partners . So we could develop our project and the impact could be higher;
- To finish the website of the project (Dagmar is in charge). All partners should send materials.

- other products of the project (common ones): website, starting a consulting centers,
- using the media in order to promote best practices;
- evaluation activity

Other discussions among the partners:

- we need solutions; what could be done: ideas applicable to the countries
- reality is that a person who is trusted in his/her community has to be picked up and trained (all farmers must be trained-is not a reality);
- peasants (handcrafters): have no relation with business;
- good business is when it comes from local coaches;
- solutions must be :flexible, applicable to each country, applicable to each rural area;
- “Do not show them a world in which they cannot fit into, show them real world”.
- Step by step/ give them time; do not take too much step once!

Establish the dates and agenda for the next meeting in Budapest ,Hungary

II.

During the same day, **in the afternoon of 16 February 2006**, it had taken place a general meeting between the partners of the project and the national women’s NGO’S network and different associations, organizations from Romania that work in the domain and are facing these real problems.

The debates were very interesting and the participants were very glad to have the opportunity to share their own experience with the others’. In addition to these, some stated problems were solved with the solutions coming from the participants. Furthermore, it is very helpful to see the names of the organizations that took part at the meeting, and also the names of the representatives. The following names are given in the order of their presentations:

**Agenda of the meeting on the project Socrates/Grundtving2-Eliminate Poverty-Development of the entrepreneurial spirit in rural areas through ITC and business Thursday 02.16.2006, to AFR headquarter**

1. The presentation of David Faber, TREBAG, from Hungary: project about agriculture
2. The presentation of ANTFRCR, National Association of Young Christian Women, Popescu Aurora : the debate of migration problem
3. The presentation of Together Foundation, from Galati, Strat Vasilica-3 projects: a center for children (50persons); support in education; support for youth over 18yers old with disabilities. To this topic it is added Dagmar’s intervention about the concept “guided living”.the partners talked about the problem of bureaucratism from Romania.
4. The presentation of AFCSC, single mothers: the encouragement of women in their fight against domestic violence and support in their desire of becoming business women. The problem of elderly: a club dedicated to them .

5. The presentation of Children.ro Association, Silvestru Carmen: the support in management learning or how to start their own business.
6. The presentation of Save the Children, Vanut Cristina: support in education
7. The presentation of AFR, Doina Munteanu: production of glass, the factory is based in poor rural areas and seeks for foreigner clients as a process of appreciation of the Romanian traditions.
8. The presentation of Dagmar Kommer and Gerda Nikitsch, from Austria: school for emigrants; made efforts to convince the peasants to keep their farms; promoted the idea of entrepreneurial person as in Austria there are about 80% small business
9. The presentation of AFR, Anne-Marie Ormenisan: she offers guidelines and talked about the topical law of poverty elimination, released 2 weeks ago in Romania.
10. The presentation of AFR, Timus Clementina: the material polarization, the spirit of poverty, youth is inclined to migrate forced by poverty and proposes a larger number in the Parliament
11. The presentation of ACTS, Isoo Tatiana: she founded a school for adults education focused on labor instruments, an education supposed to be inherited from father to son.
12. The presentation of PAVOX, Voicu Paula: a change in mentality through information as in Hungary, the necessity of local Authority's involvement, ITC assistance and professional shape based on traditions or on the new tendency: mountain guide.

## **Second day of the visit**

On the date of 17 February 2006, the partners in the programme "Eliminate poverty" made a visit in Calarasi county, Municipality of Calarasi. First of all, in this city we wanted to discover the solutions against poverty which were implemented by the local authorities. Secondly, a round table with the local NGOs was organized by AGORA Association and the Pro Vocation Center in Calarasi. Thirdly, the partners made short visits to the local authorities such as Prefecture, City Hall, Custom in order to understand the local administration. The program of the visit was the following:

- 11.00 – Arrivals guests
- 11.30 – Welcome cocktail, presentation guests  
(greetings of Nicolae Dragu, mayor of Calarasi)
- 11.30 – 12.30 – Program presentation chaired by Mrs Liliana Pagu, President AFR
- 12.30 – 13.00 – Café pause
- 13.00 - Mini bus (destination " Podul 4" lunch)
- 13.15 – 15.00 – Lunch
- 15.00 – 16.00 – Departure at Chiciu where the border with Bulgaria will be visited (from here we see the Bulgarian territory and the Danube river ). We visited the location of the project Phare "Transition point RO-RO"
- 16.30 – 17.00 - visit the park
- 17.00-18.00 – end of the project visit, free discussions
- 19:00- departure to Bucharest

In the organized round table at the headquarter of AGORA Association , participated the following guests:

- Nelu Balasa, representing the National Council of private companies;
- Victor Balasa, representing the newspaper “Argument”;
- Gheorghe Monica, representing the newspaper “ Pamantul”;
- Laura Grigore , representing the newspaper “Observator de Calarasi”
- Ana Dumbrava, representing the Prefecture Calarasi;
- Daniela Pierce, representing “Bethany House Foundation”;
- David Faber, partner in the project, TREBAG LTD.;
- Dagmar Kommer, partner in the project, Austria, , Interkulturelle Personell Entwicklung
- Gerda Nikitsch, partner in the projectAustria, Interkulturelle Personell Entwicklung
- Liliana Pagu, partner in the project, representing AFR, the coordinator of the project
- Catalui Daria, representing AFR
- Anca Manoiu, president of Agora Association
- Nicolae Dragu, mayor of Calarasi
- Silvia Nastase, councilor of the mayor of Calarasi Municipality

### **Third day of the visit**

The partners had cultural program. They visited the most famous places of Bucharest, museums. In the evening, they served dinner in a specific Romanian restaurant “Terasa Doamnei” with gastronomic specialties and folklore performance.