

# WELCOME to the WORKSHOP on

## Building Volunteering Infrastructure in a Post-Communist Country - Opportunities and Challenges -

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# HISTORY of the LVC Network in Romania

Year	National Level	Local Level
1997		▪ 2 volunteer centers are created: Pro Vobis in Cluj and Activ in Botosani (EU Phare program)
1999		▪ 2 volunteer centers are created – AIDONG in Timisoara and ASSOC in Baia Mare (Open Society Foundation)
2000		▪ Awards Ceremony for Volunteering on December 5 <sup>th</sup> is organized for the first time in Cluj



# HISTORY of the LVC Network in Romania

Year	National Level	Local Level
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪The National Network of Volunteer Centers is set with funding from the CS Mott foundation in US and the Open Society Foundation</li><li>▪The network has 4 member volunteer centers and is not legally registered</li><li>▪Several other elements of the infrastructure emerge:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪Law on volunteering</li><li>▪Web portal on volunteering <a href="http://www.voluntariat.ro">www.voluntariat.ro</a></li><li>▪National Conference on Volunteering</li><li>▪National Volunteer Week</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪The first registered Volunteer Center appears by the change of name and mission of Pro Vobis into Pro Vobis Volunteer Center</li></ul>



# HISTORY of the LVC Network in Romania

Year	National Level	Local Level
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪8 new local volunteer centers join the National Network of Volunteer Centers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪8 local volunteer centers are created:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪2 through USAID funding distributed through Pro Vobis in Zalau and Rm. Valcea</li><li>▪6 at the initiative of local volunteering involving organizations which developed the volunteer centers in Constanta, Sighisoara, Turda, Iasi, Satu Mare, Valea Jiului</li></ul></li></ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪How to set up a local volunteer center guide is published by Pro Vobis</li><li>▪3 new local volunteer centers join the National Network of Volunteer Centers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪3 local volunteer centers are created through EU Phare funding distributed through Pro Vobis in Bacau, Bucharest and Vladesti (first rural volunteer center)</li></ul>



# HISTORY of the LVC Network in Romania

Year	National Level	Local Level
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pro Vobis acts exclusively at the national level as a resource center for volunteering</li><li>▪ 1 new local volunteer centers join the National Network of Volunteer Centers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cluj-Napoca Volunteer Center is created as an independent organization out of the department for local programs of Pro Vobis</li></ul>
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 1 new local volunteer centers join the National Network of Volunteer Centers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Oradea volunteer center is created – the first volunteer center hosted by a public institution</li></ul>
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 2 volunteer centers join the network – Slatina and Simeria</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Simeria volunteer center is created as a an independent organization</li></ul>



# HISTORY of the LVC Network in Romania

Year	National Level	Local Level
2007	▪3 new volunteer centers join the network – Sibiu, Resita, Craiova, and Bucharest (department of Pro Vobis)	▪3 new volunteer centers are created in Sibiu, Resita, Craiova, and Bucharest (department of Pro Vobis)
2008	▪2 new volunteer centers join the network – Brasov and Bacau	▪2 new volunteer centers are created in Brasov and Bacau
2009	▪The largest common project of the Network is implemented: The “Make a Difference Caravan” started on October 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Cluj-Napoca and goes to all 14 volunteer centers, ending in Bucharest on October 21 <sup>st</sup>	



# LVC Network in Romania – Program Details

**Main objective** of the program:

- to develop local volunteer centers and the volunteer centers' network as basic elements of the volunteering infrastructure in Romania

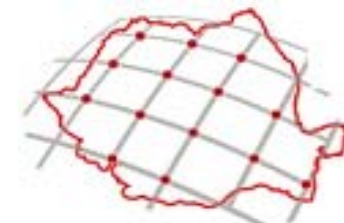
**Major activities** of the program include:

- consultancy and training on establishing, developing and managing a local volunteer center
- facilitation of set-up meetings in the communities
- networking and events for local volunteer centers
- volunteer management toolkits and trainings
- communications and public relations activities on behalf of the network of volunteer centers



# LVC Network in Romania – Program Details

Implementation period	Project Title	Financing Institution / Amount
2001-2002	New Local Volunteer Centers Development	World Learning/USAID 53 621 USD
2002-2004	Creation of the National Network of Local Volunteer Centers	C.S.Mott Foundation, US 70 000 USD
2003-2004	Development of the National Network of Local Volunteer Centers	European Union, Phare Program 18 017 EUR
2004-2006	Further development of Volunteering in Romania	C.S.Mott Foundation, US 70 000 USD
2007-2008	Mainstreaming Volunteering in Romania	C.S.Mott Foundation, US 80 000 USD
2007-2008	Developing the Infrastructure for Volunteering in Romania	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MATRA Program 129 684 EUR



# LVC Network in Romania – Lessons

- commitment of the local community is essential in the sustainability of the local volunteer center
- there is a certain degree of opportunism involved when an individual or an organizations takes on the task of setting up a volunteer center
- equal distribution of resources limits performance in some of the local volunteer centers
- the performance and specific of the local volunteer centers depends very much on the specificities of the local community
- there have to be some common standards for what we call a local volunteer center
- the performance of the local volunteer centers is also limited by the capacity of other local volunteer involving organizations to offer suitable placements for the local volunteers



# Questions for the Workshop

- 1.** How is the volunteer centers' situation in your countries?  
How are they organized and structured?  
Are there any similarities with what we shared from Romania?
- 2.** How do we measure impact of such a program?
- 3.** How is or how should be the state involved in supporting the development of volunteer centers as major elements of the volunteering infrastructure?

