



“IMPACT – Mainstreaming Non-Formal Education in Romania”

Program name: IMPACT- Mainstreaming Non-Formal Education in Romania

Program manager: New Horizons Foundation (NHF)

Partners: Center for Democratic Studies (Babes-Bolyai University); School Inspectorates from the counties Mehedinti, Timis, Iasi, Neamt, Cluj, Brasov, Calarasi, Hunedoara and Vrancea;

Grant from Romanian/American Foundation with a contribution of \$332,965 of a total project budget of \$1,004,496)

Duration: December 2010 – November 2012

The program “IMPACT - Mainstreaming Non-Formal Education in Romania” is implemented by New Horizons Foundation together with the Romanian-American Foundation as the financing organization. This program, with a duration of 2 years, consolidates and promotes the innovative New Horizons Foundation’s IMPACT model of non-formal education in 65 schools in small towns and rural areas from 9 counties in Romania. Within the program, IMPACT community initiative youth clubs are being organized in the participating schools. The program encourages entrepreneurial ways of thinking and behaving, and creates grassroots community development and volunteerism in small towns and rural areas, using experiential education, especially service learning pedagogy.

Objectives

1. To train 200 teachers (volunteers) from small towns and rural areas by using a field-tested curriculum so they have the skills to educate through extracurricular non-formal activities;
2. To enhance entrepreneurship, leadership, active citizenship, and employability knowledge of 1,000 students aged between 12 and 18 from 65 small towns and rural areas schools through a strategy of learning based on “learn by doing”;
3. To increase awareness among central and local authorities, schools, teachers and others about the importance of non-formal models of education.

Expected results

- A field-tested curriculum for the teachers, based on the four pillars of the IMPACT Program (entrepreneurship, leadership, active citizenship, and employability);
- 200 volunteer teachers trained to coordinate the IMPACT clubs;
- 1,000 students will be involved in the non-formal education activities of the IMPACT clubs, implementing at least 245 community and entrepreneurial projects at a local level;
- An impact study of the extracurricular non-formal education on youth, teachers and community;
- A collection of emerging best practices distributed to Ministry of Education, local schools inspectorates, schools and media;
- A web-based communication and resource non-formal education platform for students, teachers and general public.

Program manager: Established in 2000, **New Horizons Foundation (NHF)** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote top quality experiential education models that advance

life skills among youth as a means for sustainable development. NHF is a leader in experiential education in Romania implementing two programs: VIATA, a summer adventure education camp, and IMPACT, community initiative youth clubs based on non-formal education (service learning) and implemented as an extracurricular education program in 12 counties in Romania in partnership with the school inspectorates. IMPACT Program, received the diploma of excellence in 2006 from the National Authority for Youth. In 2010 NHF was awarded 2nd place in the “Best NGO in Education Field” category at the Education Awards Gala organized by Dinu Patriciu Foundation. (www.new-horizons.ro).

Financing organization for the program: The mission of the **Romanian-American Foundation (RAF)** is to strengthen and promote conditions for a sustainable market economy and a democratic society that provides access to opportunity for all segments of Romanian society. RAF does social investments on three programmatic areas: entrepreneurship, education and community development. The Foundation supports projects, ideas and organizations that can have a substantial impact in the communities and which have a high growth and development potential. (www.rafonline.org)