

Swiss Cultural Programme

Phoenix 05

New Models for Cultural Houses in Romania



Country / region or city(ies):

Romania / whole country

Name of the Cooperation Project:

Phoenix 05

Partner organization:

**Center for Rural Assistance
CAR (Timisoara)**

Coaching-/Monitoring-Partner:

Changels (Berne)

Duration of the project:

March 2003 – October 2005

Hundreds of cultural houses in Romania only function partially or are used for other activities. The project Phoenix 05 develops new models for lively cultural houses, which correspond to the actual socio-cultural needs of their community.

During the former socialist regime, each village in Romania had a cultural house, which primarily served political functions. After the transition most of these cultural houses had difficulties to position themselves and to develop a new identity. Many of them did not survive, others don't have a programme of their own, but rent out the premises for private functions, some operate a library, while some try to develop a programme under the new circumstances.

The project Phoenix 05 aims at supporting the persons in charge for the cultural houses in elaborating new, contemporary models for cultural houses. Out of numerous applications from all over Romania, 30 cultural referees were selected to participate at two specific training courses in cultural management. With the support of experts, each one of them developed a project for their house of culture. In April 2004 these models were presented during a selection forum in Timisoara. A jury chose the five most convincing projects, of which each receives a financial support of CHF 25'000 to put the model into practice.

www.rural-center.org
www.changels.ch

United Experts
13, Spiru Haret str.
RO-01047 Bucarest
office@unitedexperts.ro
www.unitedexperts.ro

Pro Helvetia
Swiss Cultural Programme
Hirschengraben 22
CH-8024 Zurich
info@pro-helvetia.ch
www.pro-helvetia.ch

Link:
www.deza.admin.ch
(Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC)

The five selected cultural houses and their projects to be implemented in the course of one year are the following:

- Ceptura (Prahova county): School for Contemporary Dance for children and youngsters, including organizing of a dance festival
- Mahmudia (Tulcea county): Theatre studio and company with members from the village and the region, theatre tours
- Elselnita (Mehedinti county): Cultural Resource Center: Amateur- and Muppet theatre plus computer-based foreign language courses
- Bucecea (Botosani county): Audio Studio for recording and promoting young talents and dissemination of radio plays in the region
- Voivodeni (Mures county): Folk dance classes for the Roma and Hungarian communities, literary evenings, cultural conferences, senior club

The establishment of a cinema-hall in the cultural house Lipovat (Vasliu county) was a pilot-project prior to the above selected models.

Experiences are documented in the newsletter "Cultural referees' journal", which is being distributed regularly to 200 cultural referees in all parts of Romania. In the summer of 2005, the Romanian film- and video production company Fundatia Arte Vizuale is realizing a documentary film on the selected models. Together with a manual, prepared by the project-partners, this documentary shall contribute to the dissemination of the new models and – hopefully – be an incentive for other cultural houses in Romania and the region at large to come forward with new ideas and new life for their cultural houses.

The Swiss Cultural Programme is a joint initiative of the Arts Council of Switzerland PRO HELVETIA and of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Kosovo and the Ukraine.

It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations. ■