

FAST Romania in a nutshell



About us

Since **1998**, we have been running projects that meet educational, work skills and social care needs, together with practical improvements in living conditions for needy families. Above all, we work to promote social integration in Braşov county, Romania. As **objectives we aim to:**

- improve the quality of life for families in disadvantaged Roma communities
- increase access to education for children and youth in deprived areas
- support people to become positive role models in their community
- provide sustainable solutions to the Romanian education/welfare strategies

In our work we help socially rejected **children and youth**, Roma families, **teenagers living in marginalized rural areas** from Zizin, Tărlungeni and **students from Săcele**.

Our present team of **24 people** is our most valuable asset!



Education defeats poverty!

The lack of material resources and the lack of education on behalf of the parents, often lead to a critical decline in children's educational performances. Yet, in our view, education remains the most efficient method in defeating the poverty that Roma communities and marginalized urban communities are struggling with.

Our educational programmes are designed to provide children and youth with a variety of nonformal activities such as multimedia training, mentorship, vocational workshops, job orientation, personal development courses, arts & crafts, play, recreation and active learning opportunities.

Give a man a fish...
and you will feed him for one day.
Teach him how to fish...
and you will feed him for life!



1. Integration centre

- Main activities: literacy and educational support workshops, homework support, computer classes, English lessons, arts and crafts, sports,, festive events
- When: 2013 – present
- Budget: 120.000 Euro/year
- Beneficiaries: 100 children/year from local schools
- Partners: Săcele Municipality/Town Hall, Child Protection Department, Săcele primary and secondary schools



We strongly believe in the power of education to change lives and provide lasting solutions to many of the problems found in deprived communities. The Local Council has partnered with FAST in renovating an old derelict building and setting up a multi-purpose centre, aiming to improve educational performance for children and youth at risk. The Centre reaches out to all the three ethnic groups of children in our town: Romanian, Hungarian and Roma.

The centre's vision is to enable children and young people to reach their potential and break down the social barriers that divide our community.



2. Multimedia for Livelihoods

- Main activities: weekly IT & multimedia training sessions, monthly group meetings, mentorship, volunteering initiatives
 - When: 2014-2017
 - Budget: 62.000 Euros over the three years
 - Beneficiaries: Roma, Hungarian, Romanian youth from Săcele High schools
- Partners: Erste Foundation, Community Aid Network, Braşov School Inspectorate, local highschoools



Indicators of impact:

- 30 young graduates **continue their high school studies** (some of them being the first in their family to reach 12th grade/3rd year of highschool)
- 10 youngsters **volunteer for the new generation and pass on** their skills, standing as role models for their peers
- 12 youngsters **started the first civic action group** for the very large deprived area of Gârcini
- **Roma and nonRoma join hands for events** in Săcele, which raise awareness about diversity and ethnic cooperation. **First shortfilm and first exhibition** in Săcele with all three ethnic groups as participants and organizers.
- 5 volunteering departments , as a spin-off effect, **expanding the programme's activities**



3. Better Homes Project

- Main activities: building safe home and improving living conditions
- When: 2007 – present
- Budget: 450.000 Euros over the ten years
- Beneficiaries: 55 families
- Partners: Tărlungeni Town Hall, various sponsors and supporters from abroad - volunteering organizations, churches, charities, schools.



Within the Roma communities on the outskirts of Brasov, there are thousands of people living in poverty, many of them barely making their living from one day to the next. Hundreds of children live in improvised shelters, lacking the very basic necessities such as food, running water, heating and electricity.

Better Homes Project is designed to support deprived families who wish to improve their living conditions. FAST offers these families the opportunity to build themselves a new house and change their situation for the better. The project brings confidence and hope for a better life and over the years we have seen many poor families turning their desperate situation into a promising future.



4. Vocational Training Centre

- Main activities: mentorship, vocational orientation and hands-on training
- When: 2017 – present
- Budget: 120.000/year
- Beneficiaries: 150 students , 12-18 years old from Săcele and nearby villages
- Partners: Velux Foundations, Săcele Town Hall, Erste Foundation, Bolton at Home, FAST UK



As a natural development of FAST, we have been considering various ways to provide vocational training and job preparation to young people living in disadvantaged situations.

The project is envisaged to be an exemplary *Vocational Training Centre*, providing skills, motivation and self-respect to youth seeking to start a career. Hands-on vocational training, combined with personal encouragement and social support can pave the way to a dignifying life for many children and families living in poverty and distress. Moreover, as Romania seeks practical solutions to its growing social problems, this centre intends to explore sustainable solutions to the overall Romanian education and welfare strategies.



Press coverage

1. <http://www.saceleanul.ro/deci-se-poate-fast-o-poveste-despre-implicare-si-dedicatie-la-sacele/>
2. <http://newsbv.ro/2017/10/19/deschis-centrul-pregatire-vocationala-impact-elevii-sacele/>
3. <http://www.brasovtv.com/index.php/social/7055-s-a-deschis-centrul-de-pregatire-vocationala-din-sacele-galerie-foto>
4. <http://www.saceleanul.ro/programul-mpv/>
5. <http://www.bzb.ro/stire/activitati-la-centrul-de-zi-pentru-copii-si-tineri-in-situatie-de-risc-din-sacele-a71328>
6. <http://www.iubescbrasovul.ro/evenimente/educatie/primaria-sacele-si-fundatia-fast-impreuna-pentru-educatie.htm>
7. <http://www.saceleanul.ro/sesiuni-de-training-multimedia-pentru-liceenii-din-sacele/>
8. <http://www.saceleanul.ro/deschiderea-oficiala-a-centrului-de-zi-coordonat-de-fast/>
9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyYSa-Eapw4>
10. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzef6nTI6T0>



CONTACT:

Ruxandra Oprică – programme manager,
+40 733 939447; ruxandra.fastromania@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/FASTCharity ; www.fastromania.eu