



Romania in Numbers:



- *Population: 21,375,000
- Urban: 54%
- Below Poverty Line: 25%
- *GDP per Capita: US\$ 11,500
- *GDP of the Poorest 10%: 1.2%
- *Unemployment: 7.6%

Source: www.cia.gov

Country Profile: Romania

NESsT Portfolio in Romania

NESsT has conducted two social enterprise competitions in Romania since its launch in May 2007. Over 100 organizations have applied, and 61 of them have received training in NESsT's planning methodology to identify, assess and develop social enterprises aimed at increasing their sustainability and mission impact. NESsT provides capacity building and financial support to an incubation portfolio consisting of ten high impact social enterprises that provide employment and sustainable solutions to Roman's critical social problems.

ACSIS

www.acsis.ro



Location: Bucharest
Sector: Children's rights, support for at-risk families
Date Founded: 2004
Stage: Third year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: ACSIS seeks to keep families together and prevent the abandonment of children by providing new parents with support and assistance, including counseling, training and employment.



According to UNICEF, at least 9,000 infants are abandoned by their parents every year in Romania as a result of poverty and social exclusion.



Support Needed from NESsT:

Financial: US\$ 8,000
Capacity-building: US \$ 8,500

Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 21,300

ADV Alaturi de Voi

www.alaturidevoi.ro



Location: Iasi
Sector: Healthcare, education, policy advocacy
Date Founded: 2004
Stage: Third Year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS in Romania have access to key services and the support they need to improve their quality of life.

Today, more than 9,000 of the roughly 15,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Romania are youth ages 17 to 21, according to Human Rights Watch.



Support Needed from NESsT:

Financial: US\$ 8,000

Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 16,300
Capacity-building: US\$ 25,000

Country Profile: Romania

NESST

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Fundatia Cartea Calatoare (FCC)

www.fcc.ro



Location: Focsani
Sector: Disability, education, employment
Date Founded: 1997
Stage: Third year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Increase access to culture, education and employment for people with vision impairment and promote their social integration through the use of modern technologies.



Only very few of the 53,000 libraries and bookstores that exist in Romania offer disability friendly technology for the country's 90,000 visually-impaired citizens.

Social Enterprise: FCC produces audio books in DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) format and is significantly expanding its current selection of feature-rich, navigable recordings. FCC sells the DAISY reader devices and software to public libraries, which are required by law to accommodate visually-impaired readers.



Support Needed from NESST:
Financial: US\$ 8,000

Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 21,300
Capacity-building: US\$ 26,000

Fundatia Noi Orizonturi Lupeni

www.new-horizons.ro



Location: Hunedoara
Sector: Youth education, civic responsibility
Date Founded: 2000
Stage: Second year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Develop social and vocational competencies amongst young people through educational and informal training programs to promote community development.



Youth unemployment and exclusion is on the rise in Romania, and job opportunities and vocational training is scarce.

Social Enterprise: At the organization's chalet property in the picturesque mountain resort town of Straja in the Meridional Carpathians, the social enterprise offers year-round tourist services, including accommodation for up to 28, with access to near-by ski resorts and summer hiking excursions.



Support Needed from NESST:
Financial: US\$ 8,000
Capacity-building: US \$ 8,500

Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 21,300
Capacity-building: US\$ 34,750

Fundatia Romanian Angel

www.raa.ro



Location: Bucharest
Sector: Health, disability
Date Founded: 1991
Stage: Third year, Incubation Portfolio

Mission: RAAF works to improve the quality of life for youth and families living with chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, and who face discrimination and social exclusion.



In Romania, there are 15,000 recorded cases of HIV/AIDS as of 2008.

Social Enterprise: RAAF has launched a social enterprise, FirstBebe, offering a course for pregnant women and couples on maternal and neonatal health care. The organization also produces and sells educational DVDs to expecting parents.



Support Needed from NESST:
Financial: US\$ 8,000
Capacity-building: US \$ 7,750

Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 21,300

Country Profile: Romania

NESST

learn to fly

Viitor Plus www.viitorplus.ro



Location: Bucharest
Sector: Sustainable development
Date Founded: 2006
Stage: First year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Promote sustainable development in the areas of sustainable production, consumption and management of natural capital, on an individual, community, and organizational level.



Nearly 200 different species of marine life die from the estimated 46,000 pieces of unrecyclable plastic debris that makes its way into every square mile of ocean.

Social Enterprise: "Textile bag" sells environmentally-friendly shopping bags made from natural products as an alternative to plastic bags. These bags are made by at-risk youth and adults as part of their rehabilitation and labor market inclusion.



Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 11,007
Capacity Building: US\$ 7,750

Support Needed from NESST:
Financial: US\$ 10,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 8,500

Prietenia Association www.prietenia.org



Location: Pantelimon
Sector: Youth, disability
Date Founded: 1996
Stage: First year, Later stage

Mission: Improve the quality of life for children and adults with mental and associated disabilities through curative pedagogy and social therapy following the Rudolf Steiner methodology.



In 2006, 31,000 children with mental disabilities were reported to live in state institutions in Romania, under questionable human rights conditions and little autonomy.

Social Enterprise: "BioHrana" promotes a balanced and healthy lifestyle while providing employment for its beneficiaries through the sale of organic vegetables grown and harvested by people with disabilities.



Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 10,990
Capacity Building: US\$ 7,750

Support Needed from NESST:
Financial: US\$ 10,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 8,500

Hercules Association www.asociaiahercules.ro



Location: Costesti
Sector: Community development
Date Founded: 1990
Stage: First year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Develop a strong and independent community in the city of Costesti, willing and able to find their own solutions to the issues and problems they face.



Due to high poverty levels, the school dropout rate is increasing in Costesti

Social Enterprise: The association has built an events center, available for rental to individual and local companies for events such as weddings, dinners, conferences, and seminars. Upon request, it also offers additional services such as events production, catering and decorating services. Proceeds are used to benefit 25 low-income children.



Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 10,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 6,500

Support Needed from NESST:
Financial: US\$ 10,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 8,500

Country Profile: Romania



Touched Romania www.touchedromania.org



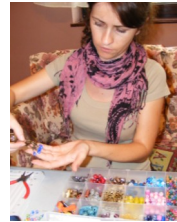
Location: Bucharest
Sector: Childhood, education
Date Founded: 2005
Stage: First year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Transform the lives of at-risk mothers and babies through a holistic support, offering emotional, educational, and financial support.



According to a recent UNICEF Romania Report, in 2009, those living in poverty increased from 369,000 people to 1.59 million, out of which 351,000 are children.

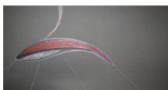
Social Enterprise: Touched trains and employs at-risk mothers in its jewelry workshop. It offers a variety of unique products (earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces, sets) that respond to a wide range of customer needs, from classical and more expensive jewelry (gold, silver, Swarovski) to more affordable ones. Revenues generated will support the Maternal Center, Hagar Home.



Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 11,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 7,750

Support Needed from NESsT:
Financial: US\$ 10,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 8,500

Tonal Association



Location: Sibiu
Sector: Mental health
Date Founded: 2003
Stage: First year, Incubation portfolio

Mission: Promote actions to guarantee the dignity of persons with mental health problems and their families, promoting a society based on harmony, solidarity and respect.



Romania lacks a national strategic plan for mental health, seen as a luxury and not a need. Neuropsychiatric disorders represent 19.3% of diseases, leading to high mortality rates and economic loss.

Social Enterprise: Tonal creates and sells artistic lampware (lamps, floor lamps, chandeliers, fans, etc) with a unique design. Products are made in the creation and production workshop in Sibiu where people with mental health problems are employed.



Overall Support to Date:
Financial: US\$ 11,095
Capacity Building: US\$ 7,750

Support Needed from NESsT:
Financial: US\$ 10,000
Capacity Building: US\$ 8,500

Mission: To develop sustainable social enterprises that solve critical social problems in emerging markets.



Website: www.nesst.org
Sector: Venture Philanthropy, Social Enterprise Development.
Date Founded: Lee Davis & Nicole Etchart, USA, 1997.

Location: 10 countries in Latin America and Central Europe: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Hungary, Peru, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, plus USA

* In total, over 2,400 organizations in 48 countries have been trained in the principles and tools of self-financing.

*454 CSOs have the capacity to develop a social enterprise. Through the ACCESS survey, 100% of the organizations said they would go through the NESsT social enterprise planning process again, and would recommend it to others.

* NESsT has provided business mentoring and financial support to 68 social enterprises in its incubation portfolio, providing over US\$ 4 million in funds for start up and/or expansion of their business.