

Policy Center
for Roma and Minorities

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

2011 was a year when Policy Center for Roma and Minorities (PCRM) strengthened its interventions and its relationships with beneficiaries, partners and supporters. It was also a year when it expanded its activities and reach, branching out into new territory and gaining new audiences. This report outlines the most significant directions taken and successes registered by the organization in 2011.

The activities, interventions and initiatives highlighted in the report—the solidification of a non-formal education model as a tool for social inclusion in one of Romania’s worst ghettos, the consistent use of sports as a means to combat racism and the constant fight against discrimination at all levels of Romanian society and Europe-wide through debate, dialogue, advocacy and lobby campaigns—have supported our mission and values.



Our vision: We believe it is the right of every human being to acknowledge and accomplish his or her potential, regardless the identity, ethnicity or minority group he or she is associated with or belongs to.

Our mission: To empower Roma and other ethnic minorities so that they become active citizens of the society they live in and to stimulate the majority to actively participate in the social inclusion process.



2011 was a busy, yet rewarding year. We were fortunate to expand our portfolio and deepen our expertise, but we experienced some growing pains. We added valuable people to our team and attracted talented, dedicated volunteers without whose efforts we wouldn't have been able to achieve what we did. At the same time, we parted ways with a number of people who worked hard for the organization—Radu, Nicu, Sivia and Dorian. Some still keep in touch or volunteer. I want to thank them and the entire team—be it staff members, collaborators or volunteers for everything they did.

We learned that juggling projects in multiple directions while keeping up on our advocacy and research work can be tricky. We learned how to use our few human resources more efficiently in order to organize a record number of activities and achieve successes in two countries. Though we struggled in some ways and despite the fact that we have a rather small team with small salaries, the commitment of the individuals who work with us to make a difference and their dedication to our values made up for the obstacles.

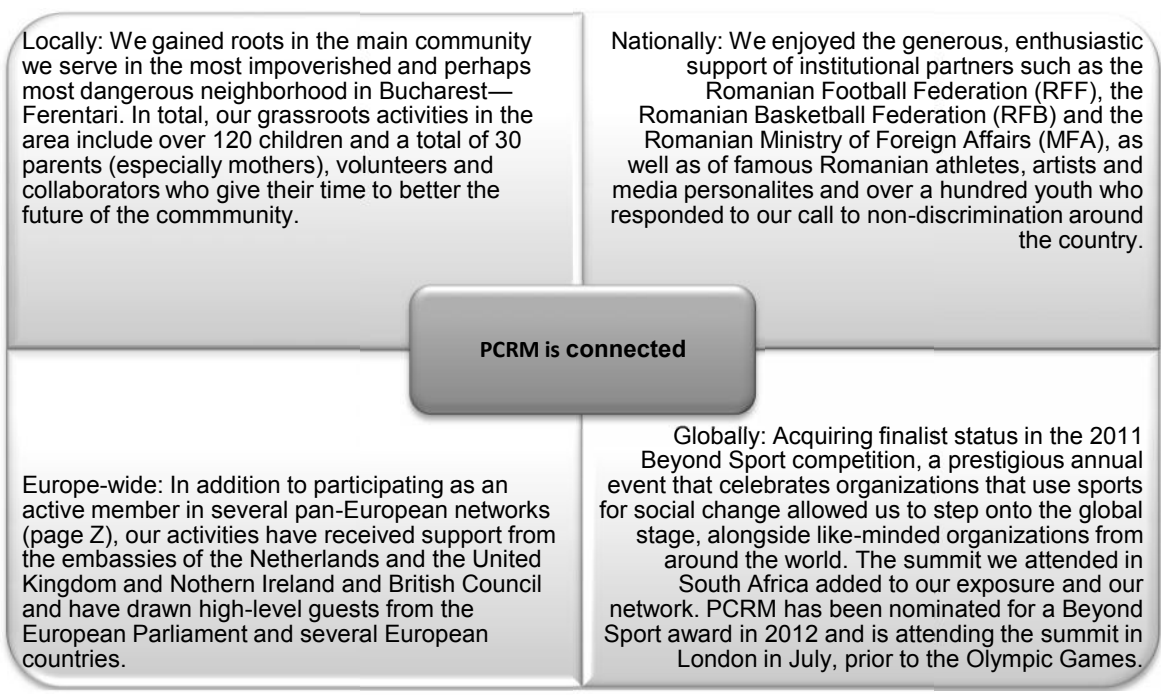
I feel myself very fortunate to be part of the Policy Center team, to try to make a difference in the ghetto of Ferentari and to have an input at the national and European Union levels from time to time.

*~ Valeriu Nicolae
Policy Center for Roma and
Minorities Founder and President*

GROWING STRONG: INCREASING OUR NETWORK
2011 is the year we grew the most in our four-year history.

PCRM witnessed a remarkable increase in the reach of its projects, the number of beneficiaries, the size of its audience and its supporter base in 2011. Some of the projects, campaigns and initiatives that took place in 2011 started in 2010, while others continued into 2012. Here are some of the highlights of our work:

- ▀ The *Alternative Education Club*, a non-formal education project designed to promote social inclusion of marginalized Roma and non-Roma children in the Ferentari ghetto of Bucharest, started in 2010 and was expanded in 2012. In 2011, the project directly involved some 80 children, 20 parents and around 15 teachers and indirectly reached some 400 members of the impoverished community. Financed by the Embassy of the Netherlands, Roma Education Fund and the European Commission, the project included a mentorship component for 30 children, which was supported by the Soros Foundation Romania and an arts and culture component funded by the Open Society Institute in Budapest.
- ▀ Financed by the European Commission (EC), *REACT – Make Europe an equal place for Roma* aimed to challenge negative prejudices of Roma, using actions, tools and tactics to encourage people to re-think their attitudes and become active citizens. It directly addressed policymakers and public authorities, journalists, the general public, and very importantly, the Roma themselves—parents, children and communities—as agents of their own change. Overall, the numerous awareness-raising, advocacy and grassroots-development activities included in the project directly involved some 2,000 people and reached some 7,150 people directly (as well as a few million television viewers) in Romania and Italy, with a majority of the activities receiving media coverage. PCRM implemented the project in Romania and Italy next to partners from Bulgaria and Albania, under the umbrella of the ERGO (European Roma Grassroots Organization) Network, which administered the EC grant.
- ▀ Mindful of the need for meaningful and inclusive dialogue promoting a more democratic society based on equal opportunity and active citizenship, PCRM carried out information and awareness raising campaigns, sports and educational events as well as public discussions on topics such as Roma integration, discrimination, racism, and social inclusion throughout the year. A series of debates entitled *Challenge to Non-Discrimination* and the Debate House project both involved youth. The rest of the activities involved artists and sportspeople, diplomats and politicians, journalists and the general public and reached vast audiences, estimated in the tens of thousands, both in Romania and abroad.
- ▀ PCRM continued its research, advocacy and lobby work in 2011. The book *Hidden Communities*, a study depicting life in a ghetto area of Ferentari, was released in Romanian and English. PCRM also authored the 2011 ENAR Country Shadow Report for Romania, which focused on discrimination against the Roma. As a sub-partner of Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP) on the EC-funded MiMoSa (Migrants’ Inclusion Model through Sport for All) project, it participated in a series of consultations that would lead to drafting of guidelines for civil society, sports organizations and governments on the use of sports for social inclusion. At the end of the year, PCRM gathered civil society leaders, politicians and personalities involved in building a more inclusive society and a more active citizenry at a Active Citizenship Gala featuring Grammy-winning artist Damian Drăghici.



GAINING ROOTS: BUILDING UP A COMMUNITY

2011 is the year we deepened our roots in the community we serve.

PCRM's most significant achievement in 2011 was the consolidation of its flagship project, the Alternative Education Club (AEC). A non-formal education program targeting marginalized children from the poorest neighborhood in Bucharest (Ferentari), the AEC was established in October 2010 with a seed grant from the Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest. In 2011, it received financial support from the European Commission (within the framework of the REACT program—see below) and the Roma Education Fund, an Open Society Institute initiative.

The Club currently serves some 150 children enrolled in three schools in the neighborhood. In 2011, the Club was operational only at school nr. 136 and served some 80 children aged 7 to 15. At the end of the year, PCRM laid the groundwork for expanding it into two new schools from the same area, schools nr. 2 and nr. 148.

Started in a neighborhood widely considered one of Romania's worst ghettos and home to drug abuse and trafficking, widespread violence and prostitution, the Club aims to empower children to break the vicious cycle of marginalization, poverty and hopelessness in which they find themselves through sports and education.

Six days a week, the children enter a safe, positive environment where they play, study and participate in sports activities under the guidance of volunteer tutors and sports coaches. Weekly activities include football, basketball and volleyball practice, street dance lessons, theater and tutoring in core academic subjects such as Romanian language, math or English. We also offer courses in photography, arts and crafts, music, and financial and social responsibility on a regular basis. On weekends, the children participate in a mentorship program that involves recreational and social activities organized by our staff. A psychologist is available to help children with difficulties integrating or relating to others.

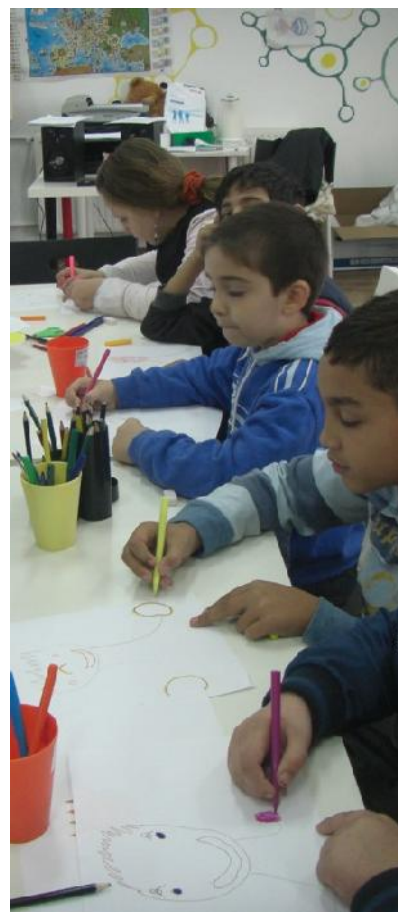
In 2011, the main results achieved by the project were:

- ▀ Recruitment and retention of a total of 80 children
- ▀ Recruitment of seven educators and 27 volunteers
- ▀ Football (boys' team), basketball and volleyball teams for boys and girls
- ▀ Dozens of football and basketball matches involving children as either players or supporters and displaying messages against racism
- ▀ Participation by the street dance crew in national street dance contests
- ▀ Participation of AEC children in the *Mondiali Antirazzisti* tournament (Italy), in professional basketball camps and in a week-long summer camp in Moroieni, Romania
- ▀ Improvement in the children's educational performance: better grades, lower drop-out rates and a significant drop in absences
- ▀ Improvement in the children's behavior and a decrease in violent incidents (71% of the children enrolled in activities do not display aggressive behaviors, compared to 50% of those in the control group)
- ▀ All children and parents involved characterize the experience as positive.

The main long-term impact that the project is having on beneficiaries is a significant positive change in the children and parents' attitudes. Whereas they saw no escape from the cycle of poverty, the children are now realizing that education and sports are ways to overcome obstacles and achieve more than their parents were able to. Sports in particular have taught the children important life skills that they can use in the future: self-confidence, self-esteem and respect for others, team spirit and peaceful conflict resolution, leadership and communication, discipline and perseverance, motivation and ambition.

Their change in behavior extends outside the school and into their homes, which gives their parents reason to believe in a better future for their children. The parents are more supportive of them, as are the teachers, who have likewise changed their belief that these children are hopeless.

The Alternative Education Club not only builds up the children's chances for a better future. It is a replicable, scaleable model of how to lay out the basis for a healthier, more self-reliant community that has the resources and confidence to improve its situation and call for change. For PCRM, it has been and remains the most important tool of promoting social inclusion of the Roma and others at the margins of Romanian society, while making it possible for us to access, communicate with, build trust and grow roots in a fragile, complex community that has been largely ignored and avoided by every stakeholder and society at large.



Club courses and activities help me very much. I have changed a great deal. I never did anything in school, never did my homework, and didn't listen to my mother. Since I have started coming to the Club, I have learned to be more disciplined, to listen to my parents and to be better behaved.

~ AEC student

I have learned to become a better person and if someone upsets me, I have learned not to beat him up or curse at him.

~ AEC student

The Club helps the children get a better education and I've reached the conclusion that those who've attended Club activities frequently and wanted to learn, have learned new things and also new ways to behave while the others have not. Some of the children are far behind [in their education], so it's a bit tough at the beginning.

~ Maria Militaru, mother of AEC beneficiary, now employed by PCRM to work with the children

The Club helps me a great deal because this is where I do my homework and eat. I learned to be disciplined and well-behaved and when I became an Aflatoun, I was even more respectful and no longer as fearful.

~ AEC student

I like to work at the Club. Working there also helps me learn a few new things about how to behave around children, even outside of Club activities, especially that I am their neighbor in many cases. Most importantly, I've learned to have more courage. The children have changed their behavior a lot.

~ Olga Vesa, mother of AEC beneficiary, now employed by PCRM to work with the children

When I am grown up, I will be an honest man. I will not steal, I will not kill and I will not go to jail.

~ AEC student

What you give the children is fantastic. You manage to get beauty out of them. Congratulations and much success!

~ Sever Sava, psychologist and Alternative Education Club collaborator



BRANCHING OUT: REACHING MANY, BUILDING BRIDGES

2011 is the year we reached the largest and most diverse audience.

From policy-makers, politicians and diplomats to athletes and sports fans, from celebrities to those living in extreme poverty in a Bucharest ghetto, from journalists to the general public, PCRM reached diverse and vast audiences in 2011. Mostly conducted with financial support from the EC, its efforts to bring to the forefront questions of racism and discrimination have blended grassroots activism with awareness raising and advocacy.

We managed to reach all these target groups due to the fact that the Alternative Education Club was at the same time a community empowerment mechanism, as well as an awareness raising and lobby instrument. It allowed us to reach the community in Ferentari (children, parents, representatives of the community), local institutions (the Sector 5 public and school administrations, which granted us access to schools and support during major events), as well as national and European policy makers, who visited the AEC for discussions and conferences, thus becoming directly acquainted with the realities of the ghetto.

The presence of high-level politicians and celebrities in the ghetto attracted the media. Journalists used to employing a generally negative, prejudiced rhetoric to portray the Roma and Roma issues were exposed to a different perspective and were able to report on the AEC as a positive example of a potential solution to what seems an intractable problem to almost every segment of Romanian society. PCRM also created a personal, more authentic relationship with some journalists, who participated in formal and non-formal discussions and gave our efforts national visibility and recognition through their reporting in national media outlets. A list of media outlets that covered our activities can be found on our website.

Notably, the largest online media outlet in Romania (Hotnews), which receives millions of individual hits each month, reported on the OSCE High Commissioner for Minorities Kurt Vollebaek's visit to the AEC. A large public celebration marking one year to the London Olympic Games and organized with the support of the British Embassy in Romania in the ghetto was widely reported by national newspapers and television stations that reach millions of Romanians each day. At the end of the year, the AEC street dance crew, B4T (Born for Trouble), was featured in one of the most popular television shows in Romania, *Dansez pentru tine (I Dance for You)* and received a 3000 Euro donation. The show, which was viewed by some 800,000 Romanians, included a brief, yet vivid video about the grim reality of the children's life in the Ferentari ghetto.

OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE AEC IN 2011

- ▶ Roundtable on policies regarding the Roma with Kurt Vollebaek, High Commissioner on National Minorities from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Csaba Asztalos (President, National Council Against Discrimination), Oana Badea (Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport), Oana Mizil (Member of Parliament) and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and School no. 136.
- ▶ Official visit of Finnish government representatives including Ms. Astrid Thors, Minister of Migration and European Affairs in Finland, Her Excellency Ms. Irmeli Mustonen, Ambassador of Finland in Romania and four other Finnish guests, as well as several guests from three Romanian government ministries. (Photo below.)
- ▶ Official delegation from the Social-Democrat Group in the European Parliament led by Hannes Swoboda, then Vice-President of the European Social Democrats.
- ▶ Debate surrounding "Roma ghettos – between economic migration and criminality" with the participation of representatives from the embassies of Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Finland and UK and from the Romanian Government.
- ▶ The AEC also hosted the visit of a group of students from the Netherlands and representatives of English and Swedish NGOs.



THE OLYMPIC GAMES COME TO FERENTARI

On July 27, PCRM and the British Embassy joined efforts to celebrate one year to the London Olympics in the Ferentari ghetto. The street festival, which lasted several hours, included sports demonstrations and competitions with local children led by Romanian Olympic medalists and sports champions. The event was true to the London 2012 motto "Inspire a generation". Musician Damian Drăghici, former boxing world champion Marian Simion, Olympic medalists Ionela Țârlea and Violeta Beclea and Virgil Stănescu, captain of the national basketball team were among those present, with Ambassador Martin Harris hosting the event alongside PCRM. The AEC's street dance crew, B4T (Born for Trouble) performed with their trainers from street dance school Trouble Crew.



A full-length documentary film about life in the Ferentari ghetto was prepared and shot by a team from PCRM partner Strada Film led by Emmy-award director Alexandru Nanau. Featuring one of the children at the AEC and his family, it is being prepared for release in 2012 (see more details on p. 8). The same director produced a presentation clip about the AEC to mark one year since the official launch of the AEC on October 5, 2010. Mr. Nanau also trained children from the AEC to document their life in the ghetto through film. The best images depicting important moments in the children's daily lives and shot by the children themselves were put together to create a brief, yet powerful portrait of the living conditions in one of the country's poorest urban communities. Though not for widespread public release, the film is being used effectively by PCRM to lobby and raise awareness of the marginalization of the Roma and poor communities in Romania.

PCRM also used new media to reach supporters among the general public. Our YouTube channel has tens of thousands of viewers, with over 30,000 having viewed a CNN documentary on the life of "effectively invisible" Roma communities in Romania by the year's end. The documentary was produced in 2010 with support from PCRM and features PCRM President Valeriu Nicolae. Our Facebook account is updated regularly and the number of fans is growing steadily, as is the number of followers on Twitter.

New media is only one of the tools PCRM has used to gain visibility, especially among youth. Our caravan of debates entitled *Challenge to Non-discrimination* engaged over 100 high school students from around the country in thoughtful discussion about issues related to the Roma community, social exclusion and racially-motivated discrimination. Moderated by public figures such as well-known journalists and researchers, the debates were well received by the youth who admitted to their own prejudices about the Roma, while opening up to new perspectives. In 2011 we also continued a project now in its third year of implementation, Debate House, which gives teachers and students the tools to understand and discuss in a constructive way topics such as social exclusion, discrimination, racism, extreme nationalism and the most adequate mechanisms to combat these problems. Supported financially first by the Open Society Institute Budapest and now by the Soros Foundation, Debate House enjoys the support of long-standing PCRM partners One World Film Clubs and ARDOR (the Romanian Association for Debate, Oratory and Rhetoric).

STRANGERS SCRIPT LAB

Developed by PCRM and partner Strada Films, Strangers Script Lab was a screenplay competition and training course focused on ethnicity-motivated discrimination, the first in Romania where the selected writers developed their stories during workshops with their tutors. The award (a cash prize and full production of the winning film project by Strada Films) went to Monica Mitarca, one of seven finalists. Her project *Windows* recounts the friendship between two girls—one Romanian, the other Roma—with a complicated adolescence. Ms. Mitarca's project is currently being developed by the production house.

PHOTO-VOICE EXHIBIT

In October 2011, PCRM partnered with the National Council for Combating Discrimination to present a photo-voice exhibition made up of photographs taken by children from Ferentari, who learned how to compose and take photographs at the AEC. Coordinated by photographer Alisa Tarciniu, who volunteered her time to train the children, the exhibition cannot be shared online because of privacy concerns. PCRM has used it at various events as a powerful testimonial about life in the ghetto seen through the children's eyes.

Perhaps PCRM's most effective tool of reaching large numbers of people in its fight against racial and ethnic discrimination is sports. PCRM has also used sports to foster dialogue. Its sports events have brought together people from one of the most marginalized communities in the country with those from the most privileged spheres—politics, the world of arts and culture, and professional athletes. This has started a dialogue between haves and have-nots and between ethnicities, which is laying the foundation for a more accepting and open society in Romania. The organization and its founder boast a rich history of using sports to build bridges between people, which is documented in a timeline of its sports activities released by PCRM in early 2012 and available in the resources section of our website. Also available online is a detailed sports report for 2011. Some of the highlights from a very busy year (mostly sporting events that PCRM used to promote its core message No Racism! No Violence!) include:

- ▀ March and October football games involving policy-makers, politicians, opinion leaders.
- ▀ An April run against discrimination coordinated with similar events world-wide organized under the annual Vivicitta project of PCRM partner Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti.
- ▀ The Grassroots Football Cup (in May) where AEC children played alongside other junior teams.
- ▀ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cup (also in May) that drew some 450 Romanian and foreign diplomats and diplomatic personnel.
- ▀ The National Mini-basketball League in Brasov, two European Basketball Championships for Women U18 and U16 in Arad and Oradea and the Sport Arena Streetball challenge organized under the PCRM slogan No Racism! No Violence!, the latter event drawing some 5,000 fans.
- ▀ The participation of AEC children involve in the Mondiali Antirazzisti (Anti-racism World Cup) in Italy in July.
- ▀ A massive street festival organized by PCRM on the streets of the ghetto in July to mark One Year to Go to the London Olympics, in partnership with the British Embassy, with the participation of Ambassador Harris and of Romanian Olympic medalists and sports champions who took part in sports demonstrations and competitions with local children.
- ▀ The signing of a new partnership agreement with professional volleyball team Dinamo Bucharest, whose players now wear anti-discrimination slogans on their t-shirts and welcome children from Ferentari at all matches played in Bucharest.
- ▀ Thanks to partner RFF, the Romanian First League Championship featured a simultaneous denouncement of racism and violence on the stadiums at the start of every match of day 12 of the tournament, with players and referees wearing t-shirts and holding banners with the slogan No Racism! No Violence! in front of 85,000 people in the stands and close to one million in front of their television sets.

FOOTBALL GAMES WITH PERSONALITIES

On March 20, PCRM and its partners (the RFF, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Netherlands and the National Council for Combating Discrimination) organized a friendly football match to mark the International Day for Eliminating Racial Discrimination at the Romanian national team's training center in Mogosoaia. It enjoyed the participation of over fifty representatives of Romanian civil society, the central administration, foreign diplomatic representatives, key political figures and the media. A similar, follow-up match took place on October 30. (Photo below.)



THE FRUITS OF OUR WORK: 2011 AND BEYOND

Our efforts bore fruit in 2011 and we continue to see results in 2012.



SPECIAL FOCUS: ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP GALA

To mark the end of the REACT program, PCRM organized the Active Citizenship Gala in November, an event dedicated to active citizens who had been involved in the development of the AEC (parents from the ghetto, volunteers, institutions, civil society organizations and companies that supported us). Over 200 attended the event which presented the conditions in the Ferentari ghetto, as well as our efforts through brief videos and a dance and music show put on by the children and musician Damian Drăghici.

SPECIAL FOCUS: EDUCATION THROUGH DANCE

Throughout the year, 25 children from the AEC participated in street dance lessons provided by instructors from dance school Trouble Crew. The children learned not only hip dance moves, but also discipline, respect for others and team-spirit. The top seven performers on the dance team were organized as B4T (Born for Trouble) and performed together at public shows in April, July (at the street festival in Ferentari marking one year to the London Olympics), August (when they competed for the first time in the Nymphaea national dance contest in Oradea) and November (at the Active Citizenship Gala). In December they participated in their largest public performance yet, a Christmas show organized by Trouble Crew and PCRM under the slogan "United through Dance", which included acts by young and professional dance groups and drew an audience of 400. In the audience were Ambassador Johannes Hendrik Mattheus van Bozel of the Netherlands and several Romanian pop artists.

SPECIAL FOCUS: EXPANSION AND AWARDS FOR THE AEC

In 2011, we perfected and consolidated the AEC model of non-formal education, learning what works and also what does not work. The success of the AEC led us to expand the program to two other schools in the area in 2012. It also brought rewards.

The PCRM team took to the stage during the 2012 Civil Society Gala, which took place on May 28 at the National Opera, to receive awards for its flagship project, the Alternative Education Club. The tenth edition of the Gala rewarded our efforts to promote social inclusion through alternative education, as well as the progress made by children from Ferentari, through two distinctions: the Dan Manoleli Excellence Award for the Development of Civil Society and the third place in the Learning, Education and Research category.

SPECIAL FOCUS: BEYOND SPORT

PCRM's outstanding work was recognized in 2011 when it was short-listed for an award at the Beyond Sport annual competition, which rewards projects that use sports to promote social inclusion and effect positive social change across the world. PCRM was featured as a finalist in the Best New Project category at the Beyond Sport summit held in South Africa in 2011 (a project from Rwanda won in this category). In December, PCRM President Valeriu Nicolae and staff member Raluca Banciu traveled to Cape Town to present our work to other organizations and network at the summit which featured speakers such as Tony Blair, Michael Johnson (multi-Olympic gold medalist), Oscar Pistorius (multi-Paralympic gold medalist) and Wilfried Lemke (Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace to the United Nations Secretary General). PCRM organized an informal presentation on the second day of the summit and asked participants to sign messages on t-shirts and take photos that would be presented to the children from the AEC.

PCRM is a Beyond Sport finalist again in 2012 (this time in the UNICEF Sport for Education category) and looks forward to the summit taking place in July in London.

SPECIAL FOCUS: TOTONEL

The feature-length documentary produced by Strada Film and directed by Alexandru Nanau, which features life in the Ferentari ghetto through the story of one of the children active at the AEC, Totonel (also the working title of the production), is being prepared for release in 2012. The film project was presented at one of the world's most prestigious documentary film festivals, International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA) in Amsterdam in 2011. As a result of its participation in the IDFA pitch forum, the documentary received a Sundance development grant in July 2012. It was also featured at the Sarajevo Film Festival in July 2012, where it won an award.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CLUB: THE TEAM

2011 was a year rich in activities, achievements and impact. PCRPM was fortunate to receive material and moral support from diverse partners and amazing individuals committed to positive change. We could not have done our grassroots work without the dedication and enthusiasm of full-time and part-time volunteers, collaborators and friends of our cause. We owe special thanks to the following individuals involved in the activities of the AEC:

Staff and collaborators:

Laurențiu Gheorghe (Football instructor)
Paul Gheorghe (Dance instructor)
Mihaela Griga (AEC Coordinator)
Paul Marinescu (AEC Instructor)
Maria Militaru (AEC Instructor)
Andrei Mușat (Dance instructor)
Ionela Pădure (AEC Project Assistant)
Rodica Păun (AEC Instructor)
Sorin Sandu (Teatrul Masca)
Sever Sava (Psychologist)
Bogdan Tudorin (Dance instructor)
Viorica Ungureanu (AEC Instructor)
Olga Vesa (AEC Instructor)

Regular volunteers:

Graeme Burnley
Damian Drăghici
Adrian Furtună
Elisabeth Gayther
Isabel Gayther
Paddy Green
Maria Krause
Lili Nistor
Alecsandru Ripeanu
Alice Ruse
Hannah Slavik
Flaviana Stoianu
Alina Ștefan
Alisa Tarciniu
Luminița Townson
Ana Țaroveanu
Jos Pălăria (Hats Off) Local Youth Group



AEC COLLABORATOR PROFILE: Sorin Sandu, Theater Instructor since January 2011

An actor at the Masca Theater in Bucharest, Sorin Sandu worked with some 15 children enrolled in theater courses at the AEC, teaching them diction, acting, direction and backstage production skills. He helped the children prepare and perform two plays: *The Naughty Prince* and *the Wise Old Man* (presented to AEC students and staff members in the summer) and *The Monkeys' Rebellion* (which the children presented to an audience of 60 family members, friends and special guests in December). Sorin appreciates greatly the two hours he spends with the children every week and the children love and respect him both as a teacher and a role model.

I have been working at the Club since its inception and I enjoy going to work every day feeling motivated and having high hopes and expectations regarding the children's evolution on the one hand and my own evolution on the other. Another very important aspect of my activity at the Club during the last two years is that a number of children have kept coming back, every day. This is the result of our team's efforts and of the children's desire to learn and perseverance.

Aside from the clear, daily improvement in the children's knowledge, I like to observe how the behavior of those who attend regularly has changed. This positive change is noticeable at all levels—in their relationship with other children, with their teachers and with the Club personnel. I think we have to work more to help the children change their behavior at home as well. I say this because we are fortunate to have a good communication with their parents, some of whom still report problems relating with the children.

Finally, while we have achieved significant results thus far we have identified other things that the children need. Our work is not finished.

**~ Ionela Pădure, AEC Project Assistant
longest-standing AEC staff member**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Totals and funding sources

Total income from externally-funded projects and donations (January 1 to December 31, 2011): **2,046,432 RON**

Total expenses (January 1 to December 31, 2011): **1,955,535 RON**

Donor	Project	Amount	Time period
European Commission	REACT: Make Europe an Equal Place for Roma	327.000 EUR	Jun. 2010 - Dec. 2011
Embassy of the Netherlands	Right P.A.C.E. (Piloting Active Citizenship through Empowerment)	27.500 EUR	Aug. 2010 - Jul. 2011
Open Society Institute Budapest	Institutional support	26.500 USD	Sep. 2010 - Aug. 2011
Soros Foundation Romania	Mentorship for Life	23.000 USD	Oct. 2010 - Oct. 2011
Open Society Institute Budapest	Debate House	11.100 EUR	Nov. 2010 - Apr. 2011
The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission	Institutional support (Citizenship EACEA)	98.542 EUR	Jan. - Dec. 2011
European Commission	MiMoSa (Migrants' Inclusion Model through Sport for All)	7.120 EUR	Mar. 2011 - Apr. 2012
Open Society Institute Budapest	Matching funds: European Pilot Campaign on Awareness Raising on the Roma Issue, Anti-discrimination and Active Citizenship	24.500 USD	Mar. 2011 - Mar. 2011
Roma Education Fund (Open Society Institute initiative)	The Alternative Education Club	53.892 EUR	Apr. 2011 - Mar. 2012
Open Society Institute Budapest	Developing tools for the efficient implementation of Romanian strategy for Roma	29.190 USD	Sep. 2011 - Aug. 2012
Open Society Institute Budapest	Curbing Anti-Gypsyism through Arts - Innovative Ways to Achieve Social Inclusion	13.000 USD	Sep. 2011 - Aug. 2012
Soros Foundation Romania	Debate House	30.900 USD	Oct. 2011 - Sept. 2012
Open Society Institute Budapest	Institutional support	25.000 USD	Dec. 2011 - Nov. 2012
Individual and Corporate Donations	Various	26.300 RON	Jan. - Dec. 2011

PARTNERS

PCRM Partners in 2011

The National Council for Combating Discrimination
 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport
 The British Council
 The Romanian Basketball Federation
 The Romanian Football Federation
 Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti
 ARDOR (the Romanian Association for Debate, Oratory and Rhetoric)
 The Ovidiu Rom Association
 One World Film Clubs
 The Foundation for the Development of Civil Society
 Fundația pentru Dezvoltarea Societății Civile
 PATRIR – Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania
 Itsy Bitsy Children's Radio
 Connectoo
 iStyle®
 ZeList

In 2011, PCRM was a member of the following networks:

Aflatoun
 Ergo Network
 European Network against Racism
 EU Roma Policy Coalition
 FOND (the Federation of Non-governmental Development Organizations in Romania)
 Football against Racism in Europe
 Rețeaua Socială Acțiunăm Responsabil (We Act Responsibly Social Network)