



Policy Center
for Roma and Minorities

2012

ANNUAL REPORT



Front cover photo:

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The children from the Alternative Education Club in Ferentari, Bucharest.**

**For more information on one of the topics presented in the following, please visit our website,
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Foreword

Our endeavor to empowering minorities in ghetto type areas while building bridges between grass roots and policy making levels continued to be one of our focuses. 2012 has brought members of the Ferentari community together for their children who are actively participating to the activities of our Alternative Education Clubs. Through formal and non-formal education, through sport and dance, arts and culture, they got the chance to accomplish their potential and break free from the outside limitations imposed to them because of their ghetto upbringing.

By involving them in our activities that reach both the wider public and decision makers, we managed to raise awareness and encourage social inclusion and stimulate active citizenship. Our events supported social and civic involvement among teenagers, students, young professionals, but also the general audience of football or basketball matches and offered teachers and activists resources to use and share.



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.



2012 was a good, although very difficult year. We received a number of prizes, including the 2012 UNICEF prize for Sports and Education in London and the Dan Manoleli Excellence Award for the Development of Civil Society. We were mentioned in 2011 and 2012 in the top 3 best practices of Romanian Civil Society by the Foreign Policy. Still, we struggled with funding. Some of the people we worked with left, always a painful experience. We are grateful for their contribution and dedication.

Over 25 volunteers joined our cause last year. More than 145 children - remarkable stories - are involved in one or more of our Alternative Education Clubs' activities. We managed to convince some private companies in Bucharest to help us. Well over 500 high level officials came to see our practice in the ghetto. European Commissioner, High Commissioner of the OSCE, Council of Europe, Ministers, Ambassadors, MEPs, MPs, directors of intergovernmental organizations, mayors - you name it - came to the Ferentari ghetto. BBC, CNN, Deutsche Welle, Finish TV, Canal + are only some of the TV networks that covered what we do.

The Romanian Football Federation became a sponsor for our activities. We have a clip promoting our message that is broadcasted before every single international game of the Romanian national team.

Thank you, old friends and new ones!

Valeriu Nicolae
Policy Center for Roma and Minorities
Founder
President, 2008 to 2013

Reaching our Goals

Policy Center for Roma and Minorities managed in 2012 to reach its objectives and support its mission and vision in its three focus areas:

- **Social inclusion** through our Alternative Education Clubs in the ghetto area of Ferentari;
- **Changing negative attitudes towards minority groups, with emphasis on Roma** by implementing projects focused on awareness and on promoting antidiscrimination through sports;
- **Promoting a proactive attitude towards societal issues and civic engagement**, not only locally, but also internationally, by bringing decision makers in the ghetto and by exposing the majority to its realities.

Our various friends and supporters, both local and international, helped us to implement a considerable number of projects and campaigns. This year's OSI/Roma Initiatives Grant for *Developing tools for the efficient implementation of the Romanian strategy for Roma* project was a platform for anti-discrimination activities and events, for two researches and studies, for lobby and advocacy. Funding, raising awareness, challenging negative attitudes and policymaking were all directed towards significant change in the lives of minority communities.

It is precisely systematic change that we also aim with the Alternative Education Clubs, whose activities and effects touch not only the children involved, but also their teachers and parents. For example, a growing interest in education and in the development process of children has brought together mothers who now share stories and ask for advice in raising their children. Formal instruction at school and help with classes at the Clubs, together with complementary activities and education through sport and dance, such as those of the OSI Arts and Culture program, managed to create an environment that facilitates discipline, builds self-esteem, character and identity, consolidates values and improves teamwork.

The many challenges and accomplishments of 2012 have managed to create a network of individuals, NGOs and institutions sensitive to the realities of ghetto life and discrimination and open to active involvement. Our researches and studies (e.g. *Impact of the National Programs Intended to Stimulate School Attendance and Performance*, *The Impact of Structural Funds on Poor Communities – Influence of the Legal Framework*) offer information and analyses useful to policy makers and other actors with decision power. PCRM's grassroots experience and work reach out to officials in order to help establish strong connections with those directly affected by local, national and European legislative framework.

Locally	Nationally
<p>The Alternative Education Clubs work with a constant number of 150 children, supervising their activity and school performance, offering creative means for developing their skills and building self-esteem.</p>	<p>The support of Romanian Football Federation, as well as that of Romanian Association for Debate, Oratory and Rhetoric (ARDOR) has helped our AECs grow. Our programs developed children's skills and talents and helped fight against discrimination.</p>
PCRM is connected	
Europe-wide	Globally
<p>Partnerships with EU Member States Embassies in Romania and strong relations with EU officials, as well as with international foundations contributed to our efforts in making substantial systematic improvements in the lives of the children in Ferentari.</p>	<p>Winning the UNICEF Sport for Education award at the Beyond Sport Ceremony in London for the Alternative Education Club offered us visibility and the possibility to share experiences and good practices with a community of peers engaged in social change.</p>

Connecting Decision Makers with the Community

Official Visits in the AEC in 2012

- On May 9, 2012, the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities team and the children from the Alternative Education Club had the honor of hosting H.E. Ms. Ulla Väistö, Ambassador of Finland to Romania. Her Excellency together with the embassy First Secretary Mr. Marco Pribilla and 11 members of the Subcommittee for Administration and Security of the Finance Committee of the Finnish Parliament visited the Club and learned about living conditions in Ferentari and the projects that Policy Center for Roma and Minorities is carrying out to promote social inclusion and to combat discrimination.
- The American delegation of professional fellows in the program "Citizen Legislative Advocacy in Minority Communities" developed by the Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC) shared positive practices with us.
- Marshall Memorial Fellows met with children and mothers from the community.
- The mothers in Ferentari met with Mrs. Aura Alexandrescu from UNDP as part of a series of meetings (counseling and support group) with mothers in the communities focused on issues they face in the ghetto.
- Mr. Martin Harris, British ambassador to Romania and his mother came to visit the club from the Elementary School no.136. They brought a one-meter Paralympics mascot with them – children were impressed.

Awareness Raising Sport Event at the Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest

In October, Embassy of Netherlands, Romanian Football Federation, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities and 14 children from the disadvantaged Ferentari community joined in during an event meant to raise awareness about the need for fair play and fighting against racism and violence prior the football match Romania – Netherlands.

The Dutch Ambassador, Matthijs van Bonzel, and former Romanian National-team players, Miodrag Belodedici and Daniel Prodan played with the children. They also received UEFA's "United against Racism" T-shirts and caps and we used RESPECT footballs for the playing time. They received gifts from the Embassy and enjoyed being in the center of attention at the Embassy.

Other 14 children (mostly Roma) received tickets to the football game Romania - Netherlands taking place on the same day on the National Arena (Bucharest). Therefore, 28 happy children together with their football coach.

Romania lost 4 to 1 in a good game overall. During the game (over 55.000 people attended), we also launched a video-clip we developed together with the Romanian Football Federation. Images from the stadium and the video-clip can be watched here

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBZgzHSUtYQ&feature=youtu.be>



The Alternative Education Clubs



The Children say...

"I see the AEC as a family. Now I do not stay on the streets any more. Now, I know to read, to write and I know many interesting and useful things."

"Now, I am different, I am more mature and more respectful."

"I love all activities, but my favorites are dance, basketball and volleyball classes. Playing basketball I grow in height easier and playing volleyball, I can stretch muscles more (...). Tomorrow I will have a dance competition and I will have the opportunity to meet new people. All activities help me develop my dream and meet new friends."

"I have changed since coming to the Club; I am not how I used to be: I used to beat up all the children... Now I do not use bad words and I get along better with the children. Club activities help with my intellectual development and help me to be more understanding with others."

In 2012, the highlights and main results achieved by the project were:

- Working 13 educators and 25 volunteers worked with a total of 150 children who take part in the activities of the AEC on a regular basis;
- Having active football (boys' team), basketball and volleyball teams for boys and girls;
- 90 children took part in sports events organized by the Romanian Football Federation (RFF) in partnership with PCRM, within the framework of the UEFA Respect campaign;
- Dozens of football and basketball matches involving children as either players or supporters and displaying messages against racism;
- 60 children in 3 schools have dancing training: twice a week (Born 4 Trouble crew) and once a week (the other participants);
- The street dance crew managed to gain experience by performing on various occasions, indoors and outdoors, like at the Street Delivery Festival;
- B4T received 2nd prize (qualifying for the Las Vegas finale) and 5th prize (individuals, popping-juniors and hip-hop), at the Hip Hop International dance competition, Romania, 2012;
- Over 30 children participated at the workshops of the month long summer school at the "Dimitrie Gusti" Village Museum;
- The children from the AECs bonded with children from the "Invingem autismul!" Association during a visit and activities at an animal farm;
- Five children from the Alternative Education Club and a staff member visited a autism center when they interacted with other children through dance and games;
- Our evaluations show that there has been a significant improvement in school results, a decrease in school absences and higher motivation to attend school (also in the case of children in the Second Chance program);
- A betterment in behavior and in the desire to improve their general knowledge of the world have also been recorded;
- Children in the AECs have higher self-esteem, a sense of achievement and of pertaining to the group.

improvement skills knowledge team-work
discipline communication
performance respect

Mentoring Program

The mentoring program included 10 mentors (PCRM organization staff) and 27 children. Individual evaluation charts related to the aims and measurable results of activities were developed for every child and for every activity. Some 50 individual outdoor activities and 40 individual indoor activities (adapted to the needs and interests of each child) took place between January and March 2012. The counseling program involved all the children from the target group. We discussed daily with them about their problems, needs, personal situations and more. The mentoring program also had a counseling component.

Curbing Anti-Gypsyism through Arts

Financed by the Open Society Foundations Budapest, the Arts and Culture Program started in September 2011 and ended in September 2012. The project's aim was to involve children in the Ferentari area in artistic activities as a way of promoting social inclusion and tolerance towards Roma. The first objective of the program was involving 38 children at the street-dance class, 13 at the theatre class and 9 at the music class in Schools no. 136 and 2. Secondly, we aimed at an increase of their results in school. Their attendance rate increased and their grades were higher. The third output was an increased civic participation of the parents – we succeeded in involving around 20 parents who joined us for regular parent-teacher meetings. We also set up a Mother's Club, an activity which brings together mothers who share their experiences and also find out information on children's development, on how to better raise the children. Last but not least, this year of training and performance helped PCRM start a good core team in music, theatre and street dance. We will continue to build these teams, along with working on developing individual skills.



Learning through artistic activities at the Alternative Education Clubs

Projects and Events

We used theatre, street dance performances and sports to raise awareness and to make lobby for the integration of the Roma communities living in poor areas/ghettoes. By showing and talking about children's performances, we prove that results can be achieved if enough interest and sustainable approach are present.

Early Education Turns Dreams into Reality

Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, in partnership with Ovidiu Ro Association, launched a new component of its Each Child in Kindergarten project. In 2012, we organized a public information campaign on the importance of early education and the impact of a child's first years of life on the cognitive development of the child.



International studies show that children who start their education early have better results and stay in school longer than their peers who enter the education system at a later age. "Children who receive quality early education need fewer costly special education classes and are more likely to graduate from high school and to hold jobs. (...) Early education (1) helps prepare young children to succeed in school and become better citizens, (2) is essential for a productive 21st century workforce and (3) increases productivity and tax earnings." (Calman and Tarr-Whelan, *The Economic Impact of Early Education*)

The majority of disadvantaged families are unaware of the critical importance of early education. This is why the Each Child in Kindergarten project helps 1,400 children from 20 economically marginalized communities to enroll in kindergarten and attend courses regularly.

Policy Center for Roma and Minorities has supported this initiative financially within the framework of the REACT project, which was financed by the European Commission and ended in December 2011. Implemented by the ERGO Network, REACT piloted strategies of inclusion for the Roma minority in four European countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Italy and Romania).

Non-formal Education Days

In September 30 children visited the Antipa Museum and Glocal truck. In partnership with PATRIR, we organized workshops on conflict, violence and peace at Schools no. 136 and 2.

Take over day!



On the occasion of the Universal Children Day on November 20, Policy Center joined Terre des Hommes Romania in the project "Take-over Day". The main objective of this initiative was to involve 30 children in a job simulation process by taking over the position of a professional at his/her work place for one day. The professionals involved were the mentors of the children and through a realistic simulation, the participants discovered interesting information about the challenges of the chosen jobs. Five children from the Alternative Education Clubs were involved in this project (four from the Elementary School no. 136 and one from School no 2).

empower equality
 potential
 inclusion accomplish involved together
 active
 identity proactive

Spring Dinner Fundraising Event

The Policy Center for Roma and Minorities hosted the Spring Dinner, a fundraising event to support the Alternative Education Club that took place at Godot Café-Theatre on February 27, 2012. We organized a silent auction featuring objects donated by Catalin Mitulescu, Damian Draghici and the national football team and we invited the guests to purchase artisanal items made by the children during the workshops in the AECs. We also received support from the basketball national women's team and Svetlana Drăgușin, PATRIR, Trouble Crew, Marcel Moldovan, Marius Popa & Trio Atmosphere and Godot Café-Theatre.



The event raised 1500€ that helped the Club supply food, educational materials, sports equipment to the children in Ferentari.

“Say NO to Racism” Flash Mob

On February 28, the Old Center of Bucharest, right next to the National Bank had a surprise when hearing drum beats on its quiet streets. The children from the Alternative Education Club in School no. 136, Marcel Moldovan and Marius Popa played the drums and handed out tulips carrying the message “No racism! No violence!” The impact was impressive for both passers-by and the children involved.



Civic values, ethics and political culture educational module for the children in the AEC

Eruption AntiCorruption (a project developed by SynergEfica) started the collaboration with PCRM in August 2012. The aim of the project was to create and implement educational modules of political and civic education for children. The modules were implemented in the Elementary School no. 136, each Monday for ten weeks and addressed subjects such as equality, tolerance, empathy, ethics, democracy and many more.

International Romani Art Festival

Policy Center for Roma and Minorities in collaboration with ARAF and ADIS – Association for Development and Social Inclusion organized activities for children within the Festival. Creative workshops, music, dance, puppet theater, body painting, sports, games, storytelling, animators and other activities were meant to help avoid stereotypes and get to know and enjoy Roma culture.



International Day against Racial Discrimination Diversity Games

Terre des hommes Romania in partnership with UEFA, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities and other organizations supported communication, understanding and cooperation through games and activities on March 21. The day targeted working together rather than competing against each other. The children sang the hit of the summer of 2011, *Tot mai sus (Always Higher)* by Guess Who, a traditional Roma song, *Ando Vurdon (On the Wagon)* and a ballad. Members of the Club who were not present also sent a message through their photos from the *Beyond the Ghetto* Exhibition. Organized by PCRM and the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the exhibition held images from the daily life of children in Ferentari, as seen and taken by themselves. Celebrities in sports and culture participated to state that ethnic barriers that we artificially build stop us from realizing the beauty of diversity and the potential that can be achieved only together. Amongst the supporters present, we mention the Olympic fencing champion, Laura Badea and football stars like Daniel Prodan, Miodrag Belodedici (also UEFA ambassador) and Dan Ionescu and young actors of Roma and Turkish ethnic background, such as Aylin Cadir, Doinița Oancea, Zita Moldovan and Sorin Sandu.



Connect-R Concert on Radio Europa FM

The children from the Alternative Education Club were invited to see Connect-R (famous Romanian singer) at the most popular radio station in Romania - Europa FM. They had the chance to meet Connect-R in person and exchange gifts. The children personalized with their hand written messages a "Unite against Racism" UEFA T-shirt and offered it to Connect-R. They also performed a Romani song that impressed the artist and others present in the room. Europa FM, the most popular radio in Romania, broadcasted interviews with the children from AEC who participated at the event.



Debate House 2011-2012

Debate House was a project that promoted multiculturalism, active citizenship and human rights, as well as the rights of minorities in Romania, through the involvement of teachers and students in a series of seminars, trainings and debates throughout the school year 2011-2012. In its third year of existence, the project, implemented with the help of One World Film Clubs, ARDOR, the School Inspectorate, with the support of the Soros Foundation Romania.

One of the events of Debate House 2012 was *Storytellers at the Bastilia Bookstore*, when around 100 high school students came to listen to successful Roma people about their struggle to fight stereotypes.



Alexandra's party

The fundraising event for the children in the Alternative Education Club took place in September. It was a party for Alexandra, a 6-year-old child, who asked her friends to transform their presents for her birthday into a donation. She rose close to 3,000 lei for the Club of Alternative Education and the amount was used for preparing a celebration and buying educational materials for the children in Ferentari.

I Am Gypsy. I Am Proud

This was the slogan of the Save the Music event that featured Damian Drăghici and 100 traditional violin players, which took place in the Old Center of Bucharest on June 15, at the initiative of the Toflea Association and the Bright Light Foundation. The children from the AEC had a wonderful time and got to meet soap opera star Doinița Oancea from "Gypsy Heart", who became very popular when it aired in 2008.

How We Spent June 1

June 1 came, as in previous years, with maximum fun. This time, the International Children's Day Celebration moved from the streets indoors, where Policy Center for Roma and Minorities and Terre des hommes Romania organized sports activities and games for 220 children. Schools no. 73, 136 and 148 from Ferentari hosted children who competed in team activities, came up with strategies to defeat their adversaries and learned that in most cases, collaboration and communication are the best ways to win.

Special thanks are due to our friends from Terre des hommes (who also work in schools no. 73 and 148 in Ferentari) and to some of the children's mothers, who worked all day.

At the Conference

PCRM was partners with the Department of Political Science, University of Bucharest, for the conference: **Redefining the Nation Ethnicity and Nationhood in Communist and Post-Communist Societies** (May 18-19, 2012). The graduate and undergraduate student conference was organized in collaboration with Université Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne, Université Libre de Bruxelles (CEVIPOL), and the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (Bucharest). The conference was an invitation to reflect upon the changing nature of nationalism in communist and post-communist societies, especially as the nation-building strategies and manifestations of nationalism are strongly connected through a burgeoning "nation-talk", i.e. the permanent usage of nation and ethnicity as key categories of social and political practices.

Education through Sport and Dance

Respect is Learnt on the Football Pitch and in the Stands

On June 1, the two football teams from the Alternative Education Club, trained by coach Laurențiu Gheorghe, competed next to 16 other junior teams during the Respect Cup, which took place at the C.S.S. 1 Pajura (Biruința) sports complex. The 280 players aged 10 to 14 demonstrated their talent on the pitch, united under the slogan: „The Respect Cup! No Racism! No Violence!” They wore UEFA hats bearing messages such as “Respect the Opponent!” “Respect the Environment!” and “Respect Diversity!” At the end of the tournament, the children received certificates, cups, individual awards and sports equipment.

On June 5, 70 children from Ferentari cheered for the national junior football team, who defeated its opponent from Slovakia with the score 2-0. The young supporters rejoiced for their team’s victory next to everyone else who attended the game. The presence of children from Ferentari (most of them Roma ethnics) at football games promotes respect for diversity and minorities of all kinds, but particularly for the Roma minority, which is most commonly targeted on Romanian stadiums by fans that chant racist slogans inciting to hatred and violence.



Love football! No racism! No violence! Event

Steaua Bucharest – CFR Cluj game in the Romanian national league started with an action against racism and violence in the Romanian stadiums. This followed a series of racist incidents during the month of September that lead to unprecedented measures taken by both UEFA and Romanian Football Federation to combat racism and especially anti-Gypsyism in the Romanian football. Players of both teams and referees with the banner of our campaign-European Commission, UEFA and Romanian Football Federation were among our partners.

All players wore at the beginning of the game T-shirts United against Racism –a short video can be watched on the following site:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2S7NKyMvGo&feature=youtu.be>

Football with Friends

The children from the Alternative Education Club started the month of May in full force—on the football pitch, thanks to old and new Policy Center for Roma and Minorities (PCRM) partners such as the Romanian Football Federation (RFF), UEFA and the Terre des hommes Foundation. On May 1, Open Doors Day at the RFF training camp in Buftea, 120 children from disadvantaged communities (60 of whom were from Ferentari, one of the worst ghettos in Bucharest) trained together with star football players and 60 other children from disadvantaged communities. Organized by RFF in partnership with PCRM, Corporeanima and the Queen Maria Foundation, the event took place within the framework of the UEFA grassroots program and aimed to promote football in schools and integration of marginalized children through sports.



On March 28, B4T (Born for Trouble) street dance crew (8 children from the Alternative Education Club) performed on the Hip Hop International contest, in Oradea. Totonel won the second place at the individual competition (popping style) while Alexandru Manolache won the 5th place (hip-hop style). These first awards for two of the team members increased very much self-trust and esteem of the entire crew. There were around 700 people.

Sports against Racism: Our (Hi)Story

On the occasion of the European League finals on May 9, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities' president Valeriu Nicolae met with the UEFA delegation in Bucharest as a representative of PCRM partner FARE (Football against Racism in Europe), as FARE board member for a three-year term. Mr. Nicolae highlighted the continued need to tackle anti-Gypsyism and discrimination in general at football events everywhere. He also presented a synthesis of his efforts against racism and violence both prior to the founding of PCRM and through the organization.



Debate in the Neighborhood

That is why The Romanian Association for Debate, Oratory and Rhetoric – ARDOR - and Policy Center for Roma and Minorities initiated **Debate in the Neighborhood Ferentari**, a project that aims to engage the youth in constructive dialogue, to teach them how to express their feelings, ideas and opinions and interact in a civilized way with their peers. For this project to be successful within this group, DiN combines communication exercises with other activities they enjoy, such as street dancing, in order to improve their self-esteem, communication skills and creativity.



Launching the Para-Olympic Games

On August 25, PCRM together with the British Embassy in Bucharest organized a special event preceding the start of the Paralympics competitions. Some of 25 children from the Alternative Education Club performed the mascot dance during a flash mob. They were subsequently joined by young professional street-dance performers in a celebration of the slogan `Sports is for all`.



Participation

"Encounters – shelters for children" Conference, Petter Mafay Foundation, Duderstadt (Germany)

Valeriu Nicolae was invited to deliver a speech on the Alternative Education Club in Ferentari on September Other guests: Jose Carreras, Peace Nobel Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi, federal ministers Dirk Niebel and Daniel Bahr.

"Consultation Meeting: Roma Youth Advocacy", Istanbul (Turkey) – UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO)

Twenty-eight representatives from across Europe (including Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Turkey) attended the 2-day event (September 10-11).

Debate with representatives of public authorities and NGOs in partnership with the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection, September 26.

Forum 2000. Media and Democracy Conference, held in October in Prague, invited Valeriu Nicolae to be a speaker for the panel entitled "Changing Role of the Media".

Awards and Distinctions

“Gold Medal” for the Alternative Education Club in London



The Beyond Sport 2012 summit in London brought international recognition to the efforts the PCRM team makes to transform the lives of children from Ferentari, Bucharest through education and sport.

As global organization that promotes, develops and supports the use of sports as an instrument for positive social change across the

world, Beyond Sport selected PCRM as finalist in its annual competition for most innovative sports for social change projects for the second time. After participating in the Cape Town, South Africa summit in December 2011, PCRM returned to Beyond Sport in London, where it received the UNICEF Sport for Education award just days before the start of the London Olympics. Winners in other competition categories hailed from very diverse countries: from Afghanistan and South Africa to Haiti, the United States and Uganda.

Our “Sports for Education, Education for the Future” project refers to the sports activities that motivate the children at the Alternative Education Club to study. Thanks to these activities – football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis or street dance – the children regain their trust in education and in their own forces. They also acquire values such as discipline, respect toward oneself and the other and team spirit. Participation in sports events outside the Club offers the children the opportunity to meet professional athletes who become their role models. At the same time, famous Romanian sportspeople and sports fans everywhere learn about the reality of life in the Ferentari ghetto and the need to fight racism, discrimination and social exclusion.

Special Mention at the Sarajevo Film Festival

Our **documentary entitled “Totonel”** about the Ferentari ghetto is in progress and expected to be completed in 2013. The trailer for the documentary, developed by Alexandru Nanau, was completed in November 2011. Shooting has continued from December 2011 until April 2012, when director Alexander Nanau has begun editing with Mircea Olteanu (editor of his previous documentary *The World According to Ion B.* who won an Emmy award). Sound and image post-production started in August 2012. There are broadcasters that have committed to airing the film: TVO Canada, YES Israel, YLE Finland, HBO Romania and Central Europe.

On July 10, director Nanau and producer Bianca Oana presented the film during the IDFA Forum in Amsterdam and the project received a development grant from the Sundance Institute. Nanau also received recognition in Sarajevo, where the Totonel project received a special mention in the Work in Progress category and an award in the Docu Rough Cut Boutique category (which entitles the film to be screened at the CineLine

2012 Civil Society Gala Rewards the Alternative Education Club

The Policy Center for Roma and Minorities team took the stage twice during the 2012 Civil Society Gala, which took place on May 28 at the National Opera. 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.



The Excellency Roma Gala, initiative of the National Agency for Roma, awarded the prize for combating racism through sport to Valeriu Nicolae (December 18).

Work in Progress event, attended by personalities from the film industry and representatives of various distribution channels).

Policy in the Media

Journalist Laura Oniță has released a short film on the seemingly insurmountable obstacles to growth and a good education that Roma children face in Romania. The extreme poverty, hunger, deprivation and racially-motivated, systemic prejudice experienced by Roma children daily prevent them from either entering the formal education system altogether or from performing well, graduating and moving on to the next levels. When they are not out working to support their families, the two thirds of Roma children who do attend primary and secondary school find it difficult to catch up with peers who do not miss meals, live in nurturing environments and are not put down daily because of who they are.

The second part of the documentary highlights Policy Center's alternative education program as a one-of-a kind opportunity for Roma children to learn and grow in a positive environment, while gaining the confidence that they, too, can achieve excellence. The personalized academic support, individual attention and care afforded to the children by the Alternative Education Club's staff and volunteers work wonders for the children's progress and self-esteem, as documented by Laura Oniță's camera.

The film is available at <http://vimeo.com/33616648>



Caption from the documentary film *An Education* by Laura Oniță

PCRM elaborated articles published by online magazines such as EuropeanVoice.com, openDemocracy.net, eurozine.com, theeuropean-magazine.com. PCRM received media coverage in the local and national newspapers, such as *Puterea*, *România Liberă*, in online magazines and platforms, like ziare.com, B365.ro, stiri-azi.ro, metropotam.ro, rfi.ro, autenticpromotion.ro, allcafe.ro, acum.tv; on news agencies such as *Agerpres*, *Hotnews* and in the blogosphere: ueromania2020.blogspot.ro, lolodiklo.blogspot.ro, chestiuniserioase.wordpress.com. Articles on the activities of Policy Center for Roma and Minorities appeared on international organizations' websites, such as Romapolicy.eu, ohchr.org, osce.org, un-ngls.org, mo.be, genealogies.enrs.eu and television coverage on *România TV*, *Realitatea TV*, *OTV*.

Publications

The Impact of Structural Funds on Poor Communities – the Importance of Legislative Framework.

Authors: Florin Botonogu (coord.), Aida Catană, Cezarina Fălan and Violeta Ștefănescu.

The research describes: how Romania defines the vulnerable groups and what are the concerns related to these communities, the legal framework disparity related to poor communities, the structural fund in Romania and the combating of poverty, the main problems incurred by the public authorities to access structural funds, the public management of poor communities. It comes up with a legislative proposal about particular measures for development of poor communities.

The book launch event was organized together with the Labor Ministry and the General Secretariat of the Government, at the Labor Ministry headquarters. We enjoyed the presence of representatives of Foreign Affairs Ministry, European Affairs Ministry (in charge with the coordination of structural funds), Regional Development and Tourism Ministry, Labor Ministry, Management Authority for Human Resources Development and of the most important NGOs in the field of structural funds.

Impact of the National Programs Intended to Stimulate School Attendance and Performance. A study on the measures stipulated in the Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority for the 2012-2020 period.

Authors: Florin Botonogu (coord.), Dr. Gabriela Neagu, PhD Prof. Gheorghe Sarău (consultant).

The main objective of the research was to identify, offer an alternative and test a set of indicators both qualitative and quantitative through which to follow subsequently the level of implementation of the objectives established in the Strategy. Furthermore, based on the results obtained through the research, the study intended to underline which of the actions, education support programs, measures applied to provide access to and success in education for pupils of the Roma minority have proven to have the highest impact. The analysis of quantitative data and of the data obtained through individual interviews and focus groups with pupils' parents and pre-university education teachers shall enable us to formulate recommendations intended to support public as well as private authorities in the Strategy implementation process in the future.

Debate House 2011-2012 Brochure. The Debate House project supplied the participants with a brochure containing resources on diversity, multiculturalism, global education, argumentation, public speaking and stereotypes. It holds links to activities in class, lesson plans, visual material, international reports on education, good practice examples etc.

We contributed to the **ENAR Shadow Report - Racism and related discriminatory practices in Romania.** The aim of this report is to provide a description on the situation of discrimination in Romania in the period March 2011 - March 2012. The main legislative changes, good practice examples and other important developments are mentioned by the report. The focus was the situation of Muslims, but important references were made also to other discriminated groups.

PCRM also contributed to the **White Charter of the NGO Sector in Romania, 2012 Edition** ("Carta albă a sectorului ONG din România"), a collection of proposals addressed to political parties and public institutions. The document was initiated by the Resource Center for Public Participation (Ce-Re) and the Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC). PCRM coordinated the chapter *Roma Social Inclusion*, that identifies aspects that need improving in fields such as implementing the National Roma Strategy, fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism, structural funds, developing Roma NGOs and education and social inclusion.

EC-funded **MiMoSa (Migrants' Inclusion Model through Sport for All)** project continued in 2012 and finalized with a *Methodology Guide – Social Inclusion through Sports: a Possible Model*. The goals of the project were building and strengthening an European transnational network between sport associations, national and local authorities, and universities in order to share a methodology; exchanging experiences and best practices; promoting social inclusion of migrants and other groups through sport; the empowerment of migrants and other groups in sports.

Financial Report

Total income in 2012: 810,942.51 RON.

Total income from externally funded projects and donations (January 1 to December 31, 2012): 751,169.48 (RON).

Donations: 597,73.03 (RON).

Total expenses (January 1 to December 31, 2012): 592,881.95 (RON).

Project	Amount	Time Period
OSI - Fellowship	11310 USD	May 2012 – Nov. 2012
OSI - Documentary Film "Totonei"	60000 EURO	Jun. 2012 – Nov. 2012
White Charter	900 USD	Feb. 2012 – Aug. 2012
The Alexandra Fund	2784.00 RON	Sept. 2012 – Aug. 2012
Mother's Club	10000 EURO	Dec. 2012 – Aug. 2013
OSI institutional	92000 USD	Jul. 2012 – Jun. 2013
Debate in the Neighborhood	13992.50 USD	Jul. 2012 – Jun. 2013

Partners

- The Ministry of National Education
- The Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection
- The General Secretariat of the Government (Roma advisor)
- EU Member States Embassies in Romania
- Local Administrations in the counties we developed the research and activities (mostly the County Roma Office and County School Inspectorates)
- ARDOR (The Romanian Association for Debate, Oratory and Rhetoric)
- Ce-Re (Resource Center for Public Participation)
- FDSC (The Civil Society Development Foundation)
- Romanian Parliament
- Soros Institute
- The Romanian Football Federation
- The Aspen Institute
- The British Council
- Local Roma NGOs
- Sport Arena 2012
- Ovidiu Ro
- Terre des hommes Romania
- Trouble Crew
- Itsy Bitsy Children's Radio
- Manifesto Film Clubs
- Hieroglifs Translations
- Deborah Chen Photography
- METRO
- BRENNTAG
- BCR
- UniCredit

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