



Activity REPORT



PROJECTS

Incubatorul de povești colorate/2nd edition

We organized between 14-16 February 2020, at the National Museum of Romanian Literature, a creative workshop for 26 writers and illustrators.

The workshop was held by Nadine Brun-Cosme, a well-known writer of children's literature from France.

We also hosted a discussion panel on child psychology in picture books, where we invited professionals from education and child psychology.

Following the workshop, we organized a contest, and the award-winning book, *Pe scări în sus*, by Georgiana Chițac & Oana Ispir, was published by *Cartea Copiilor*.

We donated 750 copies to kindergartens from OvidiuRo's network, where teachers will carry out literacy activities based on a toolkit designed by CUAC.

Partners: Ovidiu Ro, Reading Together Romania, *Cartea Copiilor* Publishing House, National Museum of Romanian Literature.

The project was co-financed by a grant offered by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund/AFCN.

Key figures

- 26** writers and illustrators participated in the creative workshop.
- 750** copies of *Pe scări în sus* donated to 350 kindergartens from OvidiuRo's network.
- 1** literacy toolkit based on the book available on our website.
- 236** teachers participated in an online training about literacy models & activities based on *Pe scări în sus*.
- 11.000*** children will discover the book through reading-aloud and literacy activities.

* Cf. OvidiuRo's report, figure based on the average number of students / educator.



PROJECTS

Serious Fun / Sept. 2019 - August 2020

Children from vulnerable backgrounds usually enter primary school with a learning skills gap, especially if they have not attended kindergarten. As a result, many of them do not learn to read and write on time. After a critical initial period, this gap grows rapidly as children fall behind and lose self-confidence and interest in school.

That is why we developed Serious fun, a literacy program based on picture books, for students with reading and writing difficulties in grades 2 - 4. Our goal is to bring them to the class's level in as short a time as possible.

The program is based on two main pedagogical approaches :

- teaching at the right level - a simple concept that has been implemented in multiple disadvantaged communities in various countries with similar rates of illiteracy (India, Kenya etc.). It consists of creating groups of a similar level, regardless of the students' age and class, while using class content adapted to the children's level.
- collaborative pedagogy, an educational design that aims to create group communities where children learn and develop by working together

We are currently in the pilot phase.

Partners: Primary School of Ciorogârla, Ciorogârla Town Hall

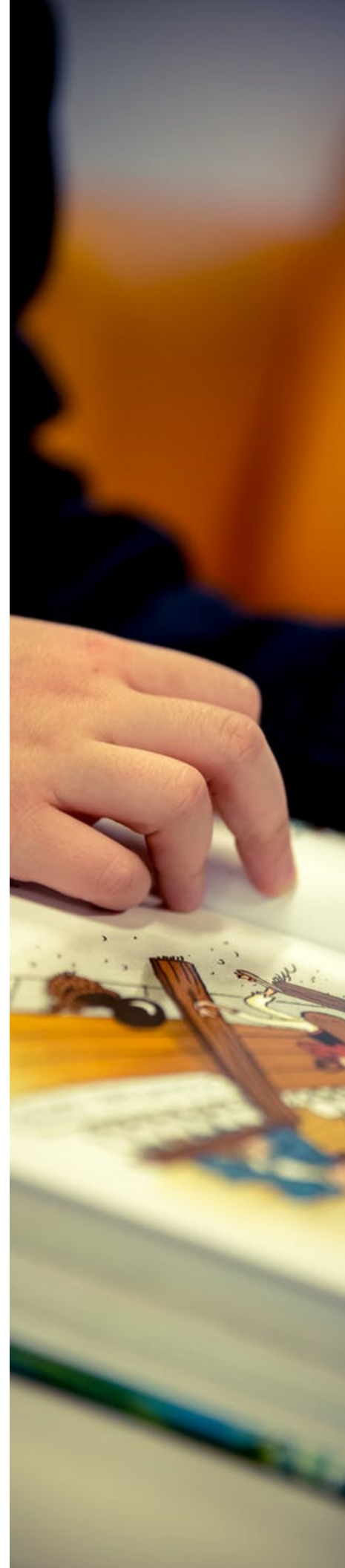
The project is funded through private sponsorship.

Key figures

2 modules of literacy activities designed by CUAC, on 2 competence levels. The activities are based on picture books and are aligned to the national curriculum for literacy.

15 students, in 2 level groups, participate in activities, 3 times a week, throughout the school year 2019-2020.

200 hours of literacy activities, per group.



PROJECTS

All I Know About Us - Sept. 2019 - March 2020

All I Know About Us is a diversity education module for students in grades 3 - 4 and 5 - 7, inspired by Teaching Tolerance and based on the curriculum developed by Julie Olsen Edwards and Louise Derman-Sparks (*Anti-bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves*).

Students explore essential questions about identity, diversity, justice, and social action through a series of 14 lessons. Most of the lessons are based on children's picture books, and the activities are designed to encourage students' engagement while building literacy and socio-emotional skills.

We piloted this project in partnership with Teach for Romania.

Key figures

- 2** modules of 14 lessons, on 2 levels. Each module is accompanied by comprehensive guidelines for educators.
- 9** teachers implement the program throughout the 2019-2020 school year.
- 200** students enrolled in the program.
- 1,600** picture books donated to the children enrolled in the program.



PROJECTS

The New Storytellers/3rd edition, Sept. 2020 - August 2021

The New Storytellers is a diverse books project that showcases the Roma community in Romania.

For the 3rd edition, we work with Ioanida Costache & Petra Gelbart (writers), Anca Smărandache (illustrator), and Petre Petcut (historian).

They will create the first illustrated history of the Roma for children of + 10 years. The book will be published in 2021 by Seneca.

1000 copies will be donated to schools through a partnership with Roma Education Fund and an activity toolkit designed by CUAC. Teachers will use the book and the toolkit to lead at least 2 diversity education workshops with their students.

Partners: Roma Education Fund, Seneca Publishing House.

The project is funded through a sponsorship (Alex Fund), a fundraising campaign (Swimathon 2020), and a mini-grant from COE/Roma and Travellers Team.

Key figures

- 1** illustrated history of the Roma, for children of + 10 years.
- 1** activity toolkit based on the book, available on our website, featuring online & offline activities.
- 3** online training sessions for teachers who will receive the book.
- 1000** copies of the book will be donated to schools in disadvantaged areas.
- 1000*** students will discover the illustrated history of the Roma through literacy & diversity education activities.

* Minimum number, estimated for the first print run of the book.



PROJECTS

Mozaic de identități/Nov. 2020 - Sept. 2021

Mozaic de identități is a diversity education module that we will implement in local schools; it will include a picture book, a toolkit of online & offline class activities based on the book, and 3 teachers' training sessions.

The book will address the notions of diversity, otherness, belonging, and will be created by a multicultural and multiethnic team. It will be based on an essay-letter written by Magda Matache, a leading Romani researcher and activist.

The French author Nadine Brun-Cosme and the illustrator Cristiana Radu will translate this essay into a unique story, with a strong message about the importance of awareness of one's own identity in a world made up of a cultural mosaic.

The book will be published by Seneca in the fall of 2021.

Partners: Teach for Romania, Roma Education Fund, Green Mogo, Seneca Publishing House.

The project is co-financed by a grant offered by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund/AFCN.

Key figures

- 1** picture book for children of + 10 years.
- 1** toolkit based on the book, available on our website, featuring online & offline activities.
- 3** online teachers' training sessions.
- 1000** copies of the book will be donated to schools in disadvantaged areas.
- 1000*** children will discover the book through literacy & diversity education activities.

* Minimum number, estimated for the first print run of the book.



EVENTS & ACTIONS



International Day of Reading Together February 5, 2020

To celebrate the International Day of Reading Together, we invited writer Carmen Tiderle to read with the students from our literacy program.

Book launch, *Nanata* May 27, 2020

We launched [live on Facebook](#) *Nanata*, the book written by Florin Bica & illustrated by Anca Smărăndache, for the 2nd edition of the New Storytellers project. The book is available on our website in flipbook format until May 2021, when it will be published* by *Cartea Copiilor*.

Book launch/*The Story of The Lost Kendama*

The Story of the Lost Kendama, by Adina Rosetti & Irina Dobrescu, is now available in Romani & Swedish, thanks to pioneer press, a Swedish publishing house. The launch event is available on [the Youtube channel of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Stockholm](#).

Book launch/*Pe scări în sus* October 21, 2020

We launched [live on Facebook](#) *Pe scări în sus*, the award-winning book of the 2nd edition of *Incubatorul de povești colorate*. The book and the literacy toolkit designed by CUAC are available on our website until July 2021.

* The print version of *Nanata* has been delayed due to the pandemic.



EVENTS & ACTIONS



Reading-aloud event October 10, 2020

In partnership with ARCS Project, we organized a reading-aloud event where "Nanata", the second book of the New Storytellers project, was read in English and Romanian, A discussion about diversity education followed the reading.

Educational resources pack October 2020

We prepared a digital resources pack (3 picture books, accompanied by 3 pedagogical guides & 3 Kahoot games) that we launched on social media and sent to Romania's most important educational organizations to disseminate in their communities. The package is available on the association's website.

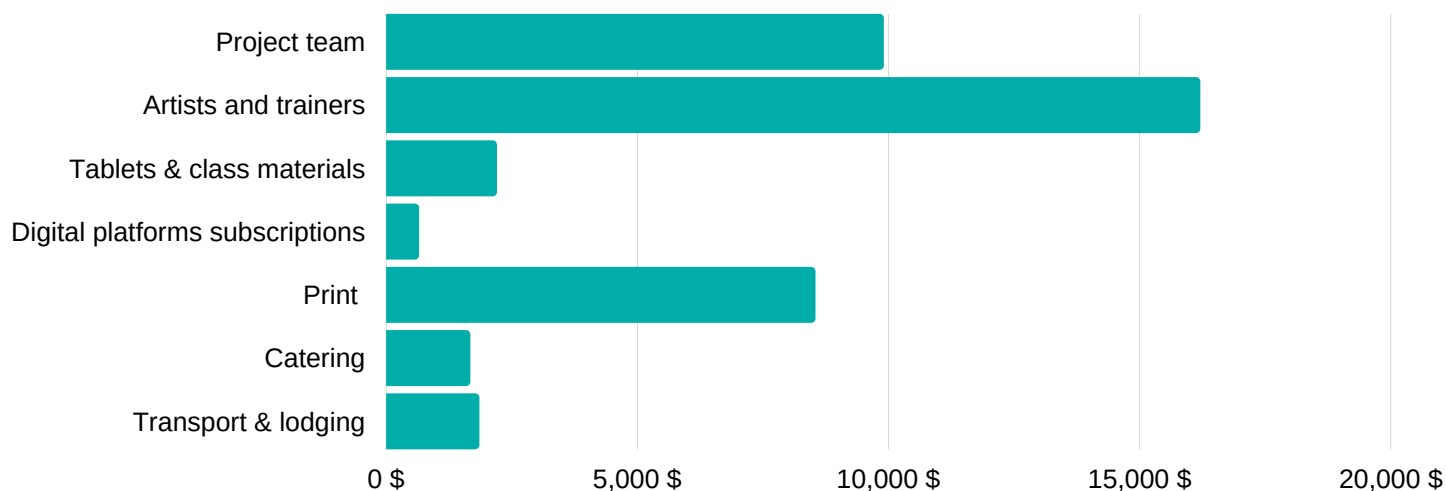
Best Practices Conference, PROF21 December 10, 2020

We will hold an online workshop on diversity education through picture books at the Best Practices Conference PROF21, a teacher training project implemented by FDSC, Reper21, Teach for Romania & World Vision Romania.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenses 2020



Total: 41, 000 \$

Remarks

Incubatorul de povești colorate was co-financed by AFCN, within the call for cultural projects / 2020. Total budget: 14, 800 \$
CUAC financial contribution : 10%

The New Storytellers III is funded by individual donors through a fundraising campaign, Swimathon 2020, an Alex Fund donation & a mini-grant from the COE / Roma and Travellers Team. Total budget: 10, 800 \$

All I Know About Us is a project where all the parts involved work as volunteers. Teach for Romania purchased the picture books necessary for the project.

Serious Fun is funded through private sponsorship. Budget for 2020: 8, 500 \$

The budget for *Mozaic de identități* is not included; funding has been approved by the AFCN, but contracts will be signed in January 2021. Total budget: 16, 400 \$

A part of the operational expenses is financed by private sponsoring: 7, 500 \$

Contact

www.cualtecuvinte.com

asociatia.cualtecuvinte@gmail.com

Facebook: @cualtecuvinte

Credit for the cover illustration: Oana Ispir

