

Activity REPORT



PROJECTS

Incubatorul de povești colorate/1st edition

We organized between March 22 - 24, 2019, at the National Museum of Romanian Literature, a creative workshop for 22 writers and illustrators. The workshop was held by Michel Van Zeveren, a well-known writer and illustrator of children's books from Belgium.

We also hosted a discussion panel on writing children's picture books, where we invited leading educators and publishers.

Following the workshop, we organized a contest, and the award-winning book, *Ce surpriză!*, by Simona Epure & Georgiana Chițac, was published by *Cartea Copiilor*.

We donated 1000 copies to kindergartens and libraries from OvidiuRo's network, where teachers carried 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.

Key figures

- 22** writers and illustrators participated in the creative workshop.
- 1.000** copies of *Ce surpriză!* were donated to kindergartens & libraries from OvidiuRo's network.
- 1** literacy toolkit based on the book available on our website.
- 30** training sessions with teachers & librarians who received the book.
- 15.000*** children discovered *Ce surpriză!* through reading-aloud and literacy activities.

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



PROJECTS

The New Storytellers/2nd edition/August 2019

The New Storytellers is a diverse children's literature project that showcases the Roma community in Romania.

We are working with Florin Bica (writer) and Anca Smărăndache (illustrator) for the second edition.

They created a picture book, *Nanata*, for children between 3 and 7 years old. The book will be released in May 2020, in partnership with *Cartea Copiilor* Publishing House.

We will donate 500 copies to kindergartens from OvidiuRo's network, along with a literacy & diversity toolkit. Teachers will use the book and the toolkit for at least 2 class sessions.

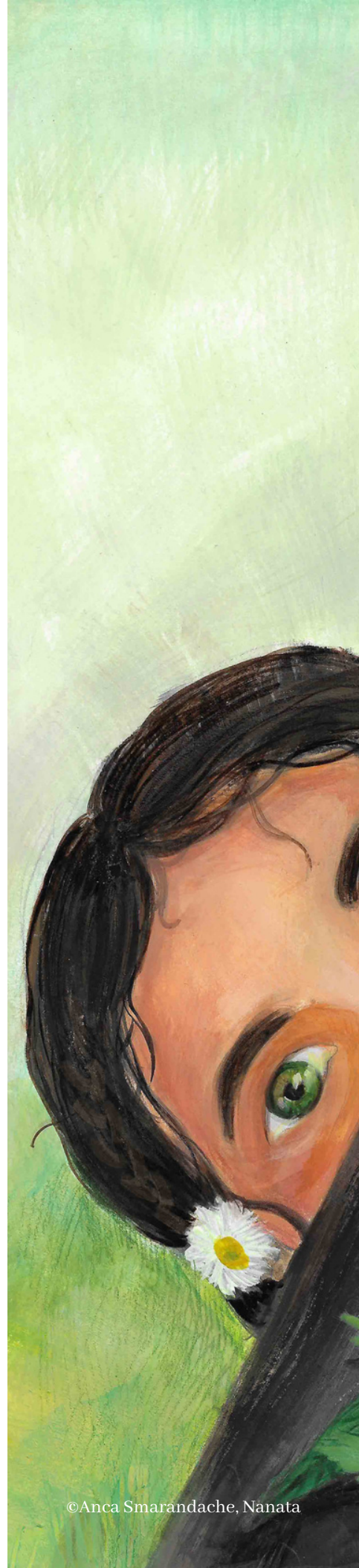
Partners: OvidiuRo and *Cartea Copiilor* Publishing House

The project is funded through a donation from Alex Fund and a fundraising campaign (Swimathon Bucharest 2019).

Key figures

- 1** picture book with Roma characters, for children between 3 - 7 years.
- 500** copies of book will be donated to kindergartens from OvidiuRo's network.
- 1** literacy & diversity toolkit based on the book available on our website.
- 3** training sessions with educators who will receive the book.
- 7.500*** children will discovered *Nanata*, through literacy & diversity activities.

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



PROJECTS

Serious Fun /September 2019

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

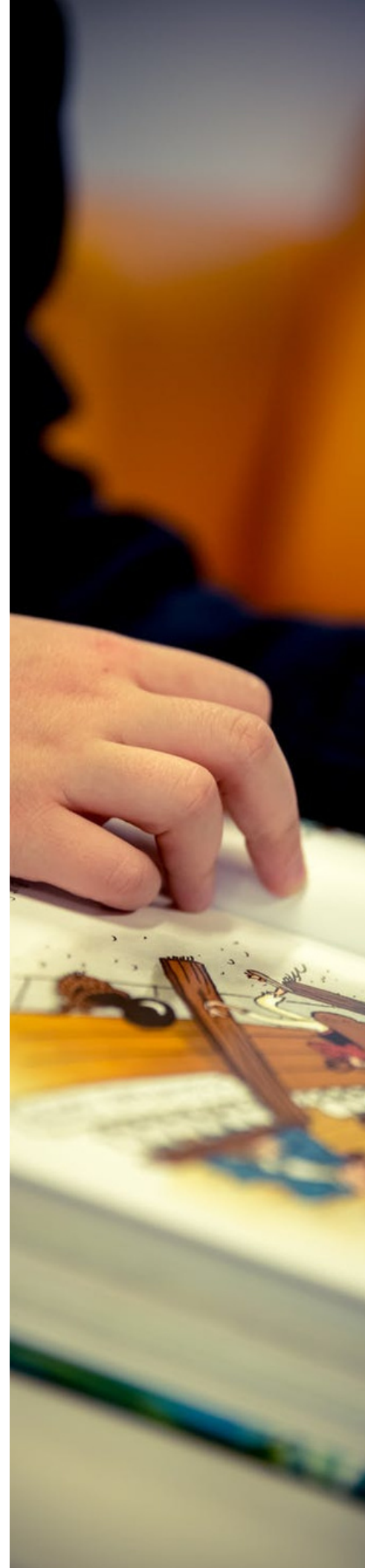
We are currently in the pilot phase.

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/September 2019

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 are currently in the pilot phase and working in partnership with Teach for Romania.

Key figures

- 2** modules of 14 lessons, on 2 levels. Comprehensive guidelines for educators accompany each module.
- 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.



EVENTS & ACTIONS

Roma Library for Children April 11, 2019

CUAC was invited to the discussion panel "Roma Culture & Children's Literature, Literacy and Empowerment" moderated by Arina Stoenescu, editor at pionier press/Sweden. The panel marked three years since the foundation of the Roma Library for Children at the Roma Culture Museum in Giulești.

Romanian Writers' Union Award June 2019

*The Story of the Lost Kendama**, by Adina Rosetti & Irina Dobrescu, was awarded at the Romanian Writers' Union Awards Gala/Children's and youth literature section.

Reading-aloud event with Adina Rosetti July 10, 2019

We organized a reading-aloud event with Adina Rosetti at the Policy Center for Roma & Minorities for the children involved in the creation of *The Story of the Lost Kendama*.

Caravana Nesupuselor July 2019

Through a partnership with De basm (a local writers' association) & Arthur Publishing House, *The Story of the Lost Kendama* reached 9 libraries from disadvantaged areas.

**The Story of the Lost Kendama* was published in the first edition of the New Storytellers project by Arthur Publishing House. We donated 500 copies to Teach for Romania, along with an educational toolkit.



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EVENTS & ACTIONS

Little Lit, Children's Literature Festival September 2019

Through a partnership with De basm (a local writers' association), we organized 2 reading workshops for students in grades 3 - 5 from School no. 134, Ferentari, and School no. 1 Sfinții Voievozi/Bucharest.

Invited writers: Sânziana Popescu and Andreea Iatagan.

Reading Diary December 15, 2019

Our friends from *Trambulina de citit* (a platform for promoting children's books) prepared a creative workshop for the children enrolled in our literacy program. Together they created reading diaries & bookmarks with their favorite story character.

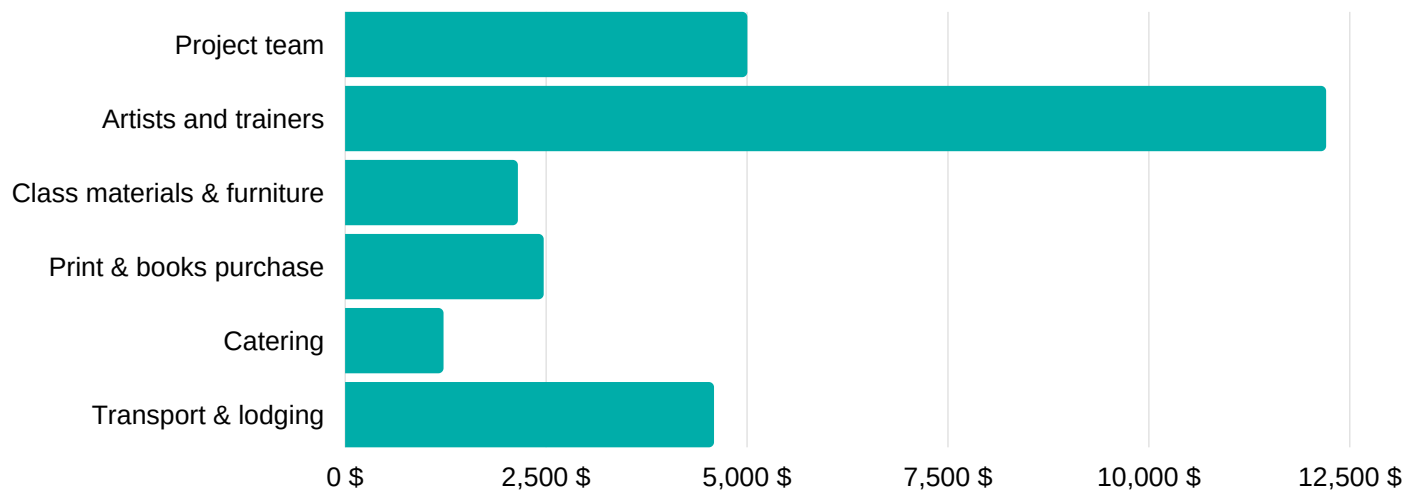
Illustration workshop December 21, 2019

We invited the illustrator Anca Smărandache to *Serious Fun*, our literacy program. The children discovered the many books illustrated by Anca and created Christmas cards, using playful illustration techniques.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenses 2019



Total: 24,000 \$

Remarks

Incubatorul de povești colorate was co-financed by AFCN, within the call for cultural projects / 2019. Total budget: 13,700 \$

CUAC financial contribution : 10%

The New Storytellers II was funded by individual donors through a fundraising campaign, Swimathon 2019 and an Alex Fund donation. Total budget: 4,500 \$

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 2019: 5,800 \$

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Credit for the cover illustration: Georgiana Chițac

