

E-BULLETIN # 3

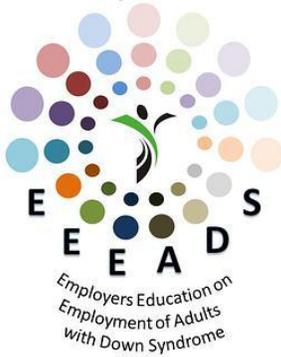
On “EMPLOYERS EDUCATION ON EMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME” PROJECT

By AREAS, ROMANIA

1. THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PROJECT IN SUCEAVA, ROMANIA: 21st-24th **September 2011**

Between 21st-24th of September 2011, The Regional Association of Adult Education Suceava, AREAS has organized and hosted the 3rd meeting on the project “Employers Education on Employment of Adults with Down Syndrome” in Suceava, in the conference room at Bicom Hotel. On the second seminar day, all participants had the chance to go on a very interesting study visit organized in partnership with the Blijdorp Day Center, where partners were offered a study tour of the centre by the manager of the Blijdorp Day Center, Mrs. Brandusa Bialy.





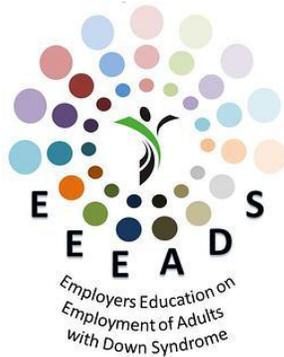
An employers' workshop (Employers' workshop: "Best practices in employment of DS people") was organized during the study visit at the Blijdorp Day Center. The workshop was moderated by Petru Vasile Gafiuc (AREAS Project Manager). All the employers invited to the workshop presented their experience in working with Down syndrome employees and the workshop proved to be very interesting and fruitful, because all partners were interested in sharing the experience.

During the workshop, the participants were introduced to an important Social Economy Conference hosted by AREAS in September 2012, about social firms and employment of disadvantaged people. More information on this will be available in this e-bulletin.



The hosting institution also organized during the study tour of Blijdorp Day Center a World Café event, to find new ideas of cooperation between actual partners, employers and other institutions invited.

All participants in the meeting were offered a cultural visit: a tour of some of the most prominent cultural heritage of Suceava: Voronet and Gura Humorului on the first day of the meeting.



2. IMPRESSIONS PROVIDED BY OUR BENEFICIARIES:

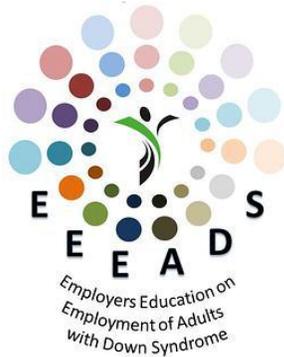
The participation at the meeting and the discussions between the partners of the project “Employers Education on Employment of Adults with Down Syndrome” which took place in Suceava between 21st and 24th of September 2011, as a representative of Blijdorp Association Romania, offered us the possibility to change our perspective on the future of the young people with Down syndrome from Suceava area. The program of encouragement and support, but especially the information and identification of potential employers, who want to take the next step, is very useful, especially in the business environment of Suceava, which is not very open to people with disabilities. We participated at the third meeting of the project, so the partners were discussing the future strategy for the project and the best ways for implementing it. Although Blijdorp Association is an example of good practice, recognized at local and national level, we don't have the necessary strategies for labor market integration of young people who will not be able to benefit from our service when they will turn 26. It was very useful the experience of the Irish and Austrian partners, countries where the inclusion of people with disabilities into working life is recognized at European level. Their points of view will help us to develop our own strategy, adapted at regional level, for helping people with Down syndrome to integrate into the labor market. We are very eager to participate and to be involved in this project by giving all our support to Ana, as an example of good practice for this project.

Brîndușă Sorina Bialy, member in the Administration Council of Blijdorp Association Romania

Cristina Doroftei, social worker “Blijdorp – A New Life” Romania

A PLACE IN MY HEART – JOY OF GIVING

For me, it rarely happens not to be able to talk about very well done things. I and my daughter Ana were beneficiaries of “Employers Education on Employment of Adults with Down Syndrome” project and we participated at the second meeting of the partners, which took place in Markt Allhau. What we saw in Markt Allhau represents, for me, the idea of success through perseverance, hard work, consistency, but especially



through a lot of love and dedication. It was wonderful to see the joy in the eyes of the people that work there and I received a very important life lesson from those children and young people: “Yes, it can be done!”. For me, the people from Markt Allhau, although persons with disabilities, are masters in what they do, fighters and winners that managed to overcome a not so friendly “karma” and managed to transform it into something beautiful. There, I saw people living and working natural and normal, I felt a very good energy and felt that everything is possible. My only regret was that I couldn’t offer the same things for my daughter, but the example we saw there motivated us and we know what we have to do if we want to change something also in Suceava.

Thank you Markt Allhau!

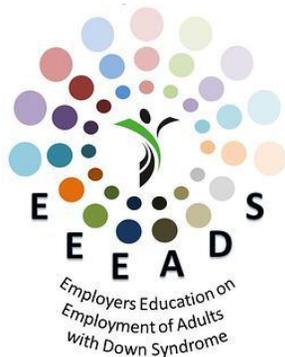
Gabi and Ana

#3. INVITATION LETTER TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL FIRMS EUROPE CONFERENCE “SOCIAL ECONOMY, TREND OR REALITY”- 20th-22nd September 2012

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

On behalf of the 2011-2012 Chairman of the European network Social Firms Europe CEFEC, The Regional Association of Adult Education Suceava AREAS, you are cordially invited to participate in the **The 25-th Anniversary Annual European Conference of Social Firms Europe, CEFEC 2012 on “Social Economy, Trend or Reality”** to be held in **Suceava, Romania, from September 20th to September 22nd 2012, in “Stefan cel Mare” Conference Room within the Administrative Palace of Suceava.**

It is a premiere for **Social Firms Europe CEFEC** to hold the **Annual European Conference in Romania**, so it will be an excellent opportunity for the international and national community, academics, social economy researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policy makers and entrepreneurs to present their original work and exchange ideas and analyze the impact and challenges of social



economy in the context of **The European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity**.

Contributions to the progress of developing new ideas to stimulate this vital area and provide new approaches to implementing a working legislation in areas where social economy is not legislated are welcome. The Conference will draw up major guidelines and a program of action for implementing the social economy legislation.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference has been working hard to provide you with a full and interesting agenda for all three days. **The Conference program is a combination of plenary sessions and a number of attractive interactive workshop sessions.** Here we have enclosed the **highlights of the event** and the general information on registration details. **Early registration ends June 25th 2012!**

We sincerely hope that you will join us in making **the 25-th Anniversary Annual Conference of Social Firms Europe, CEFEC 2012** a true success. If you have any questions or concerns, or if we may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,
Vasile Gafiuc,
Social Firms Europe CEFEC Chairman and AREAS President
E-mail: cefec2012.romania@gmail.com