

Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță in Brașov, Dâmbovița and Dolj

- A project supported through EEA 2009-2014 Grants and the NGO Fund in Romania -

166% increase in participation in Dolj as of September 2014: Over 400 children in the programme

Craiova, May 13, 2015

The Dolj County Council, County School Inspectorate and Asociația OvidiuRo held a joint press conference - followed by a press trip in the communities – part of the **Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță în Brașov, Dâmbovița and Dolj**, for the discussion of the project's current *status quo*, its results for the 2014-2015 school year as well as for planning future common actions. A grant of over 70000 to OvidiuRo from the *EEA Grants 2009-2014* through the *NGO Fund* has helped 418 children living in extreme poverty in **Amărăștii de Jos, Calopăr, Valea Stanciului, Podari, Maglavit and Cetate** to attend *grădinița* this school year, compared to 157 children who were in *grădinița* in the 2013-2014 school year, prior to the program.

In the coming months, OvidiuRo and its partners in Dolj intend to expand the **Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță** program at county level through public funding as of the next school year.

The conference at the County Council was followed by a press visit in **Amărăștii de Jos** attended by a good number of local press representatives and bloggers.

Key speech-notes from the conference in Craiova County Council:



Ion Prioteasa, Dolj County Council President: *"In a country like Romania, where only one in three poor children attends grădinița, OvidiuRo's programme and food coupon mechanism is a remarkably successful initiative and we are glad to showcase its spectacular results. Some of the local communities – like Cetate - have gone as far as tripling the number of very poor children attending gradinita. The Dolj County Council therefore considers itself to be a program partner and together with OvidiuRo we are looking into the legal solutions to expand this project through public funding".*

Leslie Hawke, OvidiuRo, co-founder: *"I want to congratulate Dolj for being one of the first counties to host Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță. Our partners understand the necessity of investing in early education. It is easy to enroll children in gradinita but it is more difficult to attain sustained attendance. The FCG mechanism together with the support of county and local authorities, teachers and mediators have ensured the program's success and therefore Dolj should be very proud for the 75-80% attendance."*

Local press excerpts from the event:



"Investing in education is the surest way a state can invest (...) Education starts at early age. (...) Along with bringing these poor children to an educational environment, this program also initiates the parents and draws them towards school. This education model is both efficient and active." **Georgică Bercea, Inspectorul General al Inspectoratului Școlar Județean (ISJ) Dolj.**

[Alege TV](#), May 13, 2015

“I brought them to kindergarten and as of last winter we’re receiving the food coupons. We use them to buy food, shoes also – they allow it at the shop in Amarastii (...) I have two girls. One is adopted. I couldn’t have children, I adopted one and then God made it possible for me to also give birth to one. They both come to kindergarten every day, they are learning how to color, how to write, to tell poems and to know to say hello when they go places.” Rodica Chelu, mother, Amărăștii de Jos.



Doljul își trimite copiii în grădinițe



“I want that my kid (son)? be educated, I want him to know the letters, how to read and write, because I can’t”, says another mother from Amărăștii de Jos.

“The fact that on the first day of kindergarten they don’t know how to speak Romanian and on the last day we manage to share memories together in class, to speak correctly and to play a diverse set of games, I consider this to be each teacher’s ideal.” Luminița Drîgnei, teacher, Grădinița Amărăștii de Jos.

“I don’t know how to read and write, but I’m bringing my children here to learn. All three of them come to gradinita through the program (...) One day the small one came and wrote his name on the wall. I was speechless with happiness.” Colorado Stoican, parent, Ocolna, Amărăștii de Jos.

[TVR Craiova](#), May 13, 2015



„It was tough to convince them to come to grădinița before this program of OvidiuRo. Not half of them were coming. Since they began receiving the 50 lei coupons, they began bringing them. We have an attendance of over 90% now.” Costel Stoican, school mediator, Amărăștii de Jos.

[Alege TV](#), May 13, 2015

“Early education has by far the highest success rate in reducing school dropout. This is because children who don’t go to grădinița regularly and whose parents can’t offer the appropriate education at home risk starting school late and underprepared and therefore to never catch up to the other children in the class “ Leslie Hawke added.

[Alege TV](#), May 13, 2015



“Starting last September, over 200 parents have participated in trainings where they learned how to be better parents to their children. The constant interaction with the parents and their ongoing involvement in the program and in their children’s education are consolidated through Parent Day and Parent on Duty - two compulsory activities for the parents who wish to receive the food coupons”

[andreamelinescu.com](#), May 15, 2015

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Online (11) | Gazeta de Sud | JurnalulOlteniei.ro | ZiarulOlteniei.ro | Oltenia24.ro |
| | Radiocraiova.ro | Comisarul.ro | Estv.ro | cvlpres.ro |
| | Ziarelive.ro | Oltenașul.ro | Ultimele-stiri.eu | |
| TV (6) | Alege.tv | | TVR | TVR Craiova (13.05) |
| | TeleU Craiova | | GTV | AltoMedia (6 TV stations, 13 broadcasts) |
| Radio (1) | Radio Craiova | | | |
| Print (3) | Gazeta de Sud | | Cuvantul Libertatii | Jurnalul Olteniei |
| Bloguri (3) | Blogatu.ro | | Andreamelinescu.com | Xaaranovak.ro |

The content of this material does not necessarily represent the official position of the EEA Grants 2009-2014. The entire responsibility for the accuracy and consistency of the information belongs to Asociația OvidiuRo.

For official information about the EEA and Norway grants access: www.eeagrants.org