



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CPE

# ABOUT US

CPE - Center for Partnership and Equality **promotes equal opportunities** and implements, for over two decades, projects for and inside the community.

In 2002 we joined women and girls in Romania in building a society that **respects** their rights, **provides** them with development opportunities, **recognizes** their capacities and contributions, **supports** them in the field of work, education, culture and health.

## OUR MISSION

Is that, together with you, we contribute to improvements in the field of **education**, in the **integration of women** on the labor market and in stimulating **entrepreneurship**, in preventing and combating **trafficking in women and gender-based violence**.





FOR 19 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN CHANGING  
STEREOTYPES WITH EQUAL RIGHTS



# YOUTH FOR LOVE

Educational programme to prevent and manage gender-based violence in schools

The **Youth4Love** project brought together **12 schools from 4 European countries (Romania, Italy, Belgium and Greece)**, involving in the project activities **1200 high school students and 180 teachers**, by organizing **40 workshops for students, 12 training programs for teachers and 4 series of creative peer to peer events** prepared by the students for their younger colleagues.

## Beneficiaries:

In Romania, 3 high schools from Bucharest benefited from the Youth for Love project. 165 high school students participated in the activity of deconstructing gender stereotypes and preventing gender-based violence in schools. The project also provided training programs for 47 teachers and school counselors.



Instruments developed as part of the project:

- Focus-group guide for the school diagnosis concerning gender-based violence and for identifying the experiences of students and school staff about the situations of violence they were involved in or they have witnessed.
- 3 training manuals for teachers, students and peer-to-peer education.
- Checklist for identifying the existing procedures in schools (formal or informal) concerning gender-based violence.
- The Youth for Love video game, that teaches teenagers to recognize gender stereotypes and allows them to see how potential, yet realistic instances of abuse, harassment and cyberbullying can be experienced, from different perspectives. All project materials may be accessed on the project's official website: [www.youthforlove.eu](http://www.youthforlove.eu).

A project developed in partnership with: **ActionAid Italia (Italy), ActionAid Hellas (Greece), UC Limburg (Belgium), AFOL-Agenzia Metropolitana per la Formazione, l'Orientamento e il Lavoro (Italy) and CPE – Center for Partnership and Equality (Romania).**

**Project implementation period: January 2019 – March 2021**

*Project co-funded by the European Union - The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) of the European Union.*

For more project information, please access <https://www.youthforlove.eu>.





## TESTIMONIALS

„The Youth for Love project helped me grow very much as a person and during the workshops, I was able to talk about things I would have never talked about with anyone. I learned that people do not say or do wrong things, but actually, they do or say things through their own personal filter and their own lived experience.” (high school student, Bucharest)

„I adjusted to the 9th grade with big difficulties, I had to get accustomed to new classmates and one of them actually helped me very much to get through the whole process easier and to stop being ashamed to express myself” (high school student, Bucharest)

„How would I convince a student to participate to such a project? I would tell them that they will really enjoy it, because this is the place where you can talk openly about your problems.” (high school student, Bucharest)

„Education is a journey, a personalized path that the student takes and the school counselor is the person who lights up the way.” (Loana Lavinia Ioniță, school counsellor, Gheorghe Șincai National College, Bucharest)

„Relationships during teenage years are an important source of joy, socialization is important, but you need to allow yourself to build a relationship, to break the ice, just be yourself and good things will happen to you.” (high school student, Bucharest)

„Because I didn't have the chance to do it until now, I wanted to get involved in this project in order to be able to talk about bullying and to provide my classmates with another perspective. Qualities that I discovered about myself? I became more patient, I am now able to stand by my point of view, but what I loved the most about the project was that there was someone with us, someone who listened and advised us.” (high school student Bucharest)

„Youth for Love is an opportunity for the classroom, an opportunity to grow, to be aware of what the stakes are, to be open and to become a community.” (high school student, Bucharest)

„Through the diversity of the activities undertaken as part of the project, I was able to better understand the perceptions of students concerning the levels of safety and protection that they feel in the school environment, I have been able to implement initiatives of prevention, managing and solving violence situations in the classroom. Students are aware of the fact that violence does not make them stronger, that human relations are based on understanding, tolerance and empathy and that the school needs to be a space free of violence.” (Ioniță Olimpia, teacher, Viilor Economical College, Bucharest)



# BRIGHT FOR WOMEN

**Bright for Women** project aims at talking with women working or wishing to work in agriculture in the South of Italy about their **rights as citizens of the European Union**. Bright for Women proposes a partnership among all active entities at a local level to improve the quality of work and the quality of life of women working in this field. This partnership is based on a work methodology used in Italy, through each local institutions, citizens, employers, trade unions and NGOs work together to identify common needs and to project long-term solutions. Bright for Women project supports **access to gender-sensitive public services** (for example social housing, public transportation to the workplace, community solutions for child care), for **women from Romania and Bulgaria** working in agriculture in Italy.

In the summer of 2020 we implemented qualitative research, with the aim of identifying and better understanding the experiences of Romanian women who worked in the field of agriculture in Italy in the past ten years. 12 women chose to tell us their story, about:

- Decision of living
- Finding a workplace in Italy
- Language knowledge and the pre-existence of a working agreement at the moment of the first foreign employment
- Contact with local institutions and authorities in Romania before leaving the country
- Locations and types of jobs performed in Italy
- Working agreements and pay
- Working hours, extra shifts and exhaustion
- Living conditions
- Negative experiences
- Experiences and perceptions about the South of Italy
- Treatment received compared to workers of other national origins
- Strategies and knowledge about protection and rights
- Reasons behind coming back to Romania
- Thoughts and intentions upon the return

Additionally, in the summer of 2020 we implemented another qualitative research in which we explored the experiences and opinions of professionals working in the field. **11 women from local communities in the regions of Moldova and Oltenia**, social workers, community nurses and school mediators shared their experiences in working with women who annually leave to work in agriculture in Italy. They shared their ideas about the type of support these women could receive from their local communities, during the preparation phase, as well as upon their return.





Co-funded by the Rights,  
Equality and Citizenship (REC)  
Programme of the European Union



**BRIGHT in numbers:**

- 8 women from Romania and Bulgaria were trained as community leaders in Italy
- 80 women from Romania and Bulgaria working in agriculture in Italy participated in community labs to learn how to take part in decision-making and how to interact with local authorities.

A project developed in partnership with: **ActionAid Italia, Labsus - Laboratorio per la sussidiarietà, CREA (Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e L'analisi dell'Economia Agraria), ALDA (Association of Local Democracy Agencies), CSCD Bulgaria (Center for Sustainable Communities Development) and CPE – Center for Partnership and Equality (Romania).**

**Project implementation period: November 2019 – October 2021**

*Project co-funded by the European Union - The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) of the European Union.*

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrightForWomen/>



# TESTIMONIALS

“I left because of what I did not have back home...my husband was sick and could no longer work, but we had so many bills to pay every month.”

“I could not understand the language at first and I was crying and crying because of that...”

“I could not stay more than 3 months, because I had my baby back home, so I would go and work there for 3 months, then I would come back home and stay with my child for 2-3 months, then go back to work and so on. And when I was there I was exhausted from the day's work and at night I was crying and crying for hours because I missed my child so much.”

“I was there for 10 years, and I could only come back to Romania during the winter, for Christmas, this was your only possibility, there was a lot of work to be done and you could not leave. Or you could, but you lost your job”

“They were paying by the hour. Well, it did not really matter what was written in your papers, there is said you worked 5 to 10 days a month, but actually, you worked a lot more. That was black money they were giving us for the work not included in the contract. We were paid 5.5 EUR/hour and this is why we actually left because we asked them so many times to increase it a little bit, to make it 6 EUR/hour, but the employer did not want to give us this 0.5 EUR/hour raise, so we left. The money was enough for us, but this is only because we worked 7 days a week, Saturdays and Sundays as well, about 11-12 hours a day.”

“My cousin was there and she knew that I no longer had a home, so she told me to come: OK, it is hard work, but it pays 5 EUR/hour, so you should come anyway...”

“When I went there for the first time, I knew I was going for one week and I ended up staying for 12 years. I imagined I would come back on vacation, but for the first two years, it was impossible to come back. So I stayed there for two full years, I did not see my family, my child. There was a lot of work. Then I came back for vacation and then I would come back sometimes in the winter when there was less work over there.”

“We were working down on our knees, here I was and my husband 10 meters away.”

“I remember it was very hard to work picking zucchini or cucumbers, you destroy your elbows, your knees, your back.”

“It was very hard in the summer, in the heat, to spend 12-14 hours a day on your knees.”

“In the beginning, it seemed easy, but it wasn't. It was very complicated to learn to control your body and keep it for many hours in a certain position, it was very hard to get used to a certain weight to carry.”

“You had 151 days a year included in your contract, but you actually worked for 365 days a year. You had to work Sundays, too, and OK, you could say no, but if you said no they didn't allow you to come back to work until the following Thursday, as a way of punishing you.”





## TESTIMONIALS

“It was hard, yes, at 8 in the morning you went inside the greenhouse and there were already 30 degrees in there. It is hard and it is hot, but if you want to progress, if you want your child to have a better life than you do, you stay there, you do it. In the beginning I thought I would not make it, I would not be able to last there, but I did.”

“We used to start working at 6.30 in the morning, so I would get up at 5.30. Sometimes we would work very long ours; I am saying sometimes but I actually mean very often. They would take us to the field, we would start at 6.30 and finish working even at 2 in the morning, the next day. There was extremely little time to rest.”

“I was actually making 850 EUR in two weeks of work, being paid 5 EUR/hour. In a month I would send 1000 EUR back home and the rest I would keep for rent, transportation, food and emergencies.”

“Initially we stayed in a slum and it was very difficult, then we stayed with another family and after many years of working there, the employer built a small wooden house for us and he was charging rent.”

“This is all because of what is happening in our own country. If you could find work here nobody would leave, I know a lot of people desperate to come back to Romania, but then you come back and you open a small business and all you do is pay a lot of taxes to the authorities.”

“So they kept you there for 7 regular hours and then for 7 other extraordinary hours. And you spend all your day there and part of the night and you wanted to, because for you those 5 EUR mattered. When it was hot, they did not allow you to go for water. You had 10 minutes break every 4 hours and you could not go to the toilet in between. When you had your period and needed to take more breaks, they would scream at you and you would run from one greenhouse to another to pick up the strawberries and it was hard work and very poor conditions. You worked in the pouring rain. You worked in the hailstorm. You used a flashlight at night to watch the arugola, you could not see where you stepped. And when I was cutting rosemary sticks, in the evening I could no longer hold the spoon in my hand, it was hurting so bad. They gave us trash bags to cover ourselves in the rain and that was it. I worked so much, I endured so much. Maybe because I am so used to this working, I worked since I was a child, the older child with two younger brothers”

“If I would leave again, I would do it differently. I would come back home more often. I missed so much, I lost so much, I felt that I lost my relationship with my child, I never saw her growing up, I lost my relationship with my parents.”

“No change in my community, the same conceptions, the same mentalities, people are the same. The same thoughts: it is not worth going, it is better to stay in Romania. Yes? What if your child is starving or cannot go to school? You need to advance, to move forward, to have an ideal...And you do this with sacrifice, of course. Young people think that abroad anything is easy and it is not true. It is very hard, you work a lot, you have no free time, the employers are harassing you like you are an object and you fully belong to them.”

# THE JOURNEY OF GIRLS IN LITERATURE



**The Journey of Girls in Literature** is a project aiming at promoting written culture among adolescent girls, with ages from 11 to 15, residing in rural areas. The project brought together **10 schools**, from 4 counties: **Ilfov** - 1 decembrie, Tâncăbești, Ghermănești, **Giurgiu** – Adunații Copăceni, Vânătorii Mici, Zădăriciu, **Călărași** – Mânăstirea, Stancea, Nicolae Bălcescu, **Dâmbovița** – Cârdești-Vale, involved **145 teenage girls and 17 teachers**, organized 20 workshops, 2 **writing and reading competitions** and an **online Festival**.

The project created a space in which teenage girls could access online cultural education workshops and develop as a public for written culture. Creatively mixing literature, personal writing, and psychological and emotional mechanisms, the project provided learning and personal development contexts. The teenage girls benefited from creating writing and reading workshops, based on literature produced by Romanian women writers, from the past and from contemporary. These methods – the workshops and the literary creation contests – helped the teenagers to know themselves better, to discover and value the literary creations of the women personalities from the past and the present, and to have access to valuable feminine models. They also had the chance to know and interact with 5 contemporary writers.

The texts studied during the workshops were selected to be appropriate for the age of the participants, special attention being given to those texts promoting pre-teen and teen characters or that show different life moments, including childhood and the teenage years.

In the **2 competitions, Girls who Read** (which involved writing a letter to their best friend, trying to convince them to read a book that the writer of the letter enjoyed) and **Girls who Write** (which involved writing a poem/prose starting with the first verse of a published poem), 96 works were submitted and 23 book prizes were given.

Before the project, **6,3% of the teenagers involved in the project read only one book per year, 2,7% didn't read any book in a year and only 41% read a book per month**. Most teenage girls had access to books because their families bought them from the family budget, much less being able to borrow these books from the school library (either the books did not exist or they only had old books). **32% of the teenagers said they were keeping a diary, 9,8% mentioned they used to write prose or, much less, poetry**.

What was the main motivator for the teenagers to participate in the project? **29% of the teenagers mentioned they enjoyed writing and reading or they wanted to meet a writer**. The influence of a parent or teacher in their decision mattered less (only for 16%).

By the end of the project implementation, the results have changed. For **61,6% of the teenage girls, the pleasure and interest in reading increased**, and they become willing to read more in the future. Almost as many girls, **59,5%, discovered that they enjoy writing. 28% of the participants also discovered that they can write** – due to the writing exercises experienced during the workshops and the Festival.

**Project implementation period: March – October 2020**

*Project co-funded by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund.*





## TESTIMONIALS

„Creativity lives inside of you, all you need is to find out how to bring it outside.”

”I discovered how much I love to write stories, by using my imagination.”

”I discovered that I can find myself in the books that I read.”

”I discovered there are also poems that do not rhyme.”

”I discovered I can understand many things about a text starting from an ordinary introduction.”

”I discovered that reading and writing can lead to great things.”

”As a result of these workshops, I take with me a bag full of knowledge, of kind and good souls, of memories. I discovered I am more than what I show, I can trust myself more and I can rely on a career in the literary field.”

”I discovered I can take any subject and turn it into a great story.”



# MAMAPAN SOCIAL BAKERY

The past 5 years we spent together with women in difficult life situations, providing them with decent jobs, stability, working hours that allow them to care for their families as well, and the possibility of a professional (re)start.

**MamaPan** — o afacere specială unde se face mai mult decât pâine

**Abonează-te astăzi!**

**E nevoie să avem o voce comună care să susținere din partea statului**

**#ONGprezent!**

**Irina Sorescu**  
Președinte Executiv CPE - Centrul Parteneriat pentru Egalitate

**Cine sunt fondatoarea MamaPan?**  
Irina Sorescu este fondatoarea și președintele asociației ONG - Fundația Centrul Parteneriat pentru Egalitate, cu scopul de a interveni în moduri diferite pentru femeile în situații de viață dificile...

**De ce sunt speciale aceste produse?**  
Produsele MamaPan au mai multe caracteristici care le face speciale: sunt făcute în casă, nu sunt făcute în fabrică, au un gust deosebit, nu conțin aditivi chimici...

**Care sunt planurile voastre pentru viitor?**  
Avem multe planuri de dezvoltare, pe care v-am prezentat în cadrul discuțiilor noastre anterioare, cum ar fi: să creștem numărul de produse, să dezvoltăm noi produse, să creștem numărul de clienți...

**Irina Sorescu (MamaPan) : Miza a fost să nu renunțăm, niciodată, la nimeni**



## MamaPan Supporters



# FINANCIAL REPORT

PROJECT	FUNDING AUTHORITY	2020 BUDGET IN EURO
Youth for Love	European Union – Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme	30.000
The Journey of Girls in Literature	Administration of National Cultural Fund	11.400
BRIGHT	European Union – Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme	9.600
Brutăria Mamapan	Product sales – 136.000 EUR Sponsorship program for senior citizens – 3.000 EUR Other sponsorships – 16.000 EUR Grant Erste Foundation – 5.000 EUR Crowdfunding – 6000 EUR, out of which 4500 EUR from Donors Circle Bruxelles.	166.000
TOTAL		217.000



## Networks we are part of



## Our team

Irina Sorescu, executive president  
Livia Aninoșanu, programs director  
Dana Marțiș, gender expert  
Ana Maria Olteanu, communication expert

### **Members of the Board of Directors:**

Doina Dimitriu, Iustina  
Ionescu, Ioana Marinescu, Valentina Marinescu, Irina Sorescu

### **Collaborators:**

Bright: Nicoleta Fiu Mitrea, Gianina Ozturk and Emilia Bartoli  
Spurcaci

The Journey of Girls in Literature: Svetlana Cârstean, Adela  
Greceanu, Elena Vlădăreanu, Simona Popescu and Ana Maria  
Sandu

### **MamaPan Bakery Team:**

Irina Sorescu, manager  
Corina Munteanu, quality and product manager  
Ana Maria Olteanu, sales  
Dana Marțiș, customers relations  
Silvia Burcea, online communication  
Marilena Ilie, Mihai Neagu, distribution  
Andreea Condurache, Nicoleta Bubulinis, Luminița Bușă, Ancuța  
Câmpeanu, mothers with skillful hands



# **CPE - CENTER FOR PARTNERSHIP AND EQUALITY**

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Site: [www.cpe.ro](http://www.cpe.ro)

Email: [info@cpe.ro](mailto:info@cpe.ro)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/cpegalitate>

Phone: +40723 221 196