

BeLL Sample Plan Romania/IREA

In Romania, the liberal adult education is provided mainly by NGOs or private institutions, since the national network for cultural houses coordinated by the ministry of culture was decentralized more than 10 years ago. The public funds for adult and continuing learning (ACE) are mainly related to job-related learning, and the nonformal learning as understood in the Bell research does not benefit by special budgetary line.

The main state providers of liberal adult education, the institutions belonging to the ministry of culture, were drastically decreasing since they are belonging to the public authorities and the funds for their activities were continuously cut. If in 2002 (Sava, Matache, 2003) there were about 152 people's universities, 228 cultural houses and 6177 cultural homes, according with the statistics of the ministry of culture, since they are belonging to the local authorities, they were turning in departments or even less, in a lot of situations, very update statistics about the public and private providers for ALE not being available. The Law of Education (2011) includes a special chapter about lifelong learning, and states the need for setting up the community centres for adult education under the local authorities' responsibilities, but even the concept of such centres exists as a draft, it was not yet adopted, and therefore funds were not yet foreseen in this respect.

The lack of statistics is also due to the increasing number of bottom up private and of civil society initiatives, covering a wide range of delivery, from private centres for languages, till courses and other activities offered by cultural foundations, museums etc. Neither the Eurostat Adult Education Survey (2007) does not include data about (non)formal adult education in Romania. The country report for UNESCO, Confintea VI (2008) also states that there are not statistical data available about the providers of

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liberal adult education. Therefore, to set up a representative sample for ALE providers is not possible, neither about the participation into liberal adult education and learning.

We will try instead to cover in 1000 target answers for Romania all fields of nonformal adult education as they are provided in the commonly agreed Bell guideline, and to cover all types of institutions typically providing non-formal learning (Sava 2003, 2007, 2008):

- *cultural houses, cultural homes, people's university* (in most cases people's universities were set up within cultural houses or in strong connection with them) – the so called in the partnership agreement *community adult education centres*. In this category we will also include regional centres for adult education, set up around the most important cultural houses.
- a special type of community centres are the ones partly supported by public community funds, related to age groups (i.e. senior's association, youth's association etc.) or other specific groups (disable persons etc.).
- *commercial AE institutions* particularly delivering course for foreign language teaching, sport activities, ICT, and, nowadays, more and more, for soft skills.
- *NGOs*, covering a wide range of courses, according with the expertise of the NGO, with the programs they manage to develop, with provision from social skills and support, till nature, sustainable development, ecology, political education (i.e. foundations of the political parties) etc. Such institutions run often their training provision based on the grants obtained from European funds (i.e. Grundtvig, Youth in Action etc.), so the training provision might not be their constant activity.
- *Churches*, and related foundations, quite active for some cults.
- *professional associations*, offering opportunities of personal development for their members, and provisions for soft skills. A special status has the teachers' houses, with a national coverage, providing skills for teaching personnel for non-formal education.

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- *museums*, art galleries, libraries, theatres etc.
- *large umbrella organisations*, like the National Employment Agency (NEA), or National Authority for Qualification (i.e. in charge with elaborating the national strategy for lifelong learning, but also coordinating the evaluation centres for validation of competencies). Even such organisations (with their county branches) cover mainly the vocational continuing education, they also handle budgets for soft skills, for counselling and empowering (NEA).
- *Voluntary initiatives*, or cooperative *alternative groups* (i.e. providing workshops of art, or street cultural delivery etc), which covers non-formal and informal learning.

Plan A:

As far as we do not have a systematic, comprehensive database, we will use the specialised forums (i.e. like the Grundtvigers, Youth in Action etc.), the databases with contacts of the umbrella organizations, of the different ministries, or dedicate actions.

We will also contact and subcontract for each region of the country recognized specialists with large contacts and dissemination power, asking to activate the adult learners to answer to your online survey.

Here are the institutions and networks we intend to contact in order to complete our questionnaire:

<http://ffff.ro/en/projects/>

<http://bucharest.the-hub.net/>

<http://camp.cros.ro/>

<http://edukube.org/>

<http://www.incubator107.com/index.html?language=en>



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<http://www.catalogong.net/>

- Institutions part of different NGO networks:

<http://www.voluntar-timisoara.ro/business-directory/>

<http://www.stiriong.ro/ong>

- All Romanian Chamberces of Commerce:

<http://www.ccir.ro/>

- Gropups/networks:

grundtvig.romania@yahoo.com

grundtvigers@yahoogroups.com

ong_tineret@yahoogroups.com

ONGRomania@yahoogroups.com

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/CODECS-Network-3015185?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/TRAINING-RESOURCES-Resurse-de-training-3060941?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1775459&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Universitatea-de-Vest-din-Timisoara-68562?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1982051&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr



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- Cultural Houses in Romania

We will try to cover about 70% of the answers online. The rest will be ensured by paid field operators, on paper based form.

Plan B: if the percent of online answering will not be reached, we will pay more field operators, to collect paper based answers, mainly using students from the Educational Sciences Department of the West University of Timisoara. There will be provided a list of institutions, mainly from Timisoara and around (covering our criteria of institutional categories) and they will go to different courses, based on preliminary agreement, to ask the students to fill in “on the spot”, and then the students will introduce the data into the common database.

References

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Sava S. (2008). Trends in Adult and Continuing Education in Romania, a country in transformation. In Report 2/2008.www.report-online.net

Unesco (2008), Romania – National Report on the Development and State of the Art of Adult Learning and Education (ALE)

http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/INSTITUTES/UII/confintea/pdf/National_Report_s/Europe%20-%20North%20America/Romania.pdf



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