

RAINBOW – WE ARRIVE TO YOU ON THE WINGS OF THE CULTURAL RAINBOW!

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In the second half of September 2010 the National Museum of Eastern Carpathians initiated a new project for children and youngsters from Covasna County, Romania. The project called **RAINBOW – We arrive to you on the wings of the cultural rainbow!** was initiated by the Museum, financed by the Administration of National Cultural Fund (AFCN) and supported by the Museum's partners: the General Office of Social Assistance and Child Protection of Covasna County (DGASPC Cv- Direcția Generală de Asistența Socială și Protecția Copilului Covasna), the „Carpații Răsăriteni” Cultural and Scientific Association (ACȘCR), the “Mihai Viteazul” National College (CNMV) and the Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention Evaluation and Counselling of Covasna County (CPECA Cv- Centrul de Prevenire Evaluare și Consiliere Antidrog Covasna).

The project was meant for those children and youngsters from Covasna County who find themselves in orphanages, family houses and other centres as such, and for those who have special needs and require special attention provided for them in specialised day-care centres. Thus, more than 80 children and youngsters were expected to attend the creative workshops organised in the following 5 centres:

- Nr.1 Family Home from Întorsura Buzăului 22nd - 24th September
- The Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped Children from Chileni 1st - 3rd October
- Nr. 3 Family House, Sf. Gheorghe 11th - 15th October
- The Centre for Emergency Reception Sf. Gheorghe 19th -21st October
- Day-care Centre from Sf. Gheorghe 26th - 28th October

The workshops, programmed between September and October 2010, were coordinated by the specialists of the Museum and DGASP Cv, by the CNMV and CPECA volunteers.



Through this project we aimed to involve the institutionalised children and youngsters and the children with special needs in the cultural life of the region, giving them free and easy access to such activities they cannot normally attend. In most of the cases they find themselves in the impossibility of coming to the museum. Thus we decided to take the museum to them. The volunteers, whom are mainly secondary- and high-school students, are given the chance to get involved in social and cultural activities. The volunteers attended previously the Museum's workshops, becoming, through the information and crafts they have learned, bearers of traditional cultural heritage. Now they are given the opportunity to transmit this heritage to others, to become teachers, to become aware of the fact that the heritage they are holding is important and that it also makes them important.

All the materials that promoted this project and all the materials used as scientific support (workbooks specially created for the children attending the workshops in the project) were bilingual – Romanian/Hungarian. As well, half of the coordinators and volunteers speak both languages. Thus, our project aimed to overcome the language barrier that is set up by most of the cultural and social projects that are implemented in Covasna County. The common denominator of the participants was not ethnic integration, but the severe need of social integration and the acute need of facilitating the access to culture for children with limited possibilities and resources.



Workbook and diploma

In all of the 5 centres we have chosen together with our partners we decided to organise 3 workshops:

1. Clay modelling and painting on ceramic vessels
2. Traditional sewing
3. Traditional weaving

Beside these 3 workshops the participants played educational games and solved riddles found in the workbook created specially for this programme. Each participant received, at the end of each workshop series, a diploma and a prize.

Most of the materials we worked with were left in each centre, according to the number of children. We hope that the participants will not stop practicing these crafts once the project has ended, that they will continue working based on the information they learn from us and with the materials we leave behind. This project provided basic information regarding each craft practiced at a workshop but we do hope in a continuation of this project.

We hope to be able to continue this project in order to reach a larger number of participants, these 5 centres being only a small part of all the institutions of the kind in our county. As well, we hope to be able to enlarge the number of workshops, to include more activities.

Our project has its own blog page, on which we posted news regarding the evolution of the workshops, impressions of the coordinators, pictures with the works of the children and a lot of interesting information about our activities: <http://mncrainbow.blogspot.com/>.

