Romanian Science Shops experience - planning for future research projects

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InterMEDIU Bucharest, Politehnica University of Bucharest
PERARES Partner
Mainly environmental issues (Biology Chemistry)

1998 MATRA 1

IASI, Gh. Asachi Technical University
IASI, Al. Ion Cuza University
GALATI, Dunarea de Jos University
BACAU, University of Bacau

2002 MATRA 2

BUCURESTI, Politehnica University of Bucharest
ORADEA, University of Oradea
BRASOV, Transilvania University of Brasov
PLOIESTI, CIMED

2008 TRAMS

TIMISOARA, Politehnica University of Timisoara
BAIA MARE, Nord University Baia Mare
CLUJ, University „Babes-Bolyai” Cluj Napoca
CONSTANTA, Ovidius University of Constanta

InterMEDIU science shops
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Universities</th>
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BACAU, University of Bacau

BUCURESTI, Politehnica University of Bucharest
ORADEA, University of Oradea
BRASOV, Transilvania University of Brasov
PLOIESTI, CIMED

2003 (MATRA 2)
INTERMEDIUNET
Romania (INRO)
National Network of Science Shops

2008
TRAMS

TIMISOARA, Politehnica University of Timisoara
BAIA MARE, Nord University Baia Mare
CLUJ, University „Babes-Bolyai” Cluj Napoca
CONSTANTA, Ovidius University of Constanta

Protejează mediul!
Activities

• Research
• Ecological/environmental education
• Consultancy
• Periodical events

Research topics

• environmental issues: water quality, soil quality, renewable resources (Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Baia Mare)
• food safety (Constanta), environment chemistry (Constanta)
• geology and geomorphology (Baia Mare)
• monitoring of the environment aspects, materials with controlled properties (Brasov)

Education

• primary and secondary schools

Consultancy topics

• food safety (Constanta),
• consultancy on the environmental issues (Bucharest, Galati, Iasi)
• monitoring of the environment aspects (Brasov)
• education

Periodical events

• Bucharest: Symposium „Education for a Clean Environment” (2012 – 8th edition)
• Baia Mare: Downhill slide competition at „Magura” V-edition
• Students’ Workshops
Most recent collaborations inside INTERMEDIUNET

- **Bucharest** and **Bacau** in *Exploring the Ground – Fostering Scientific Understanding in Primary Schools* (EFSUPS) - SAS6-CT-2006-042894 (2006-2008)
- **Iasi, Brasov, Ploiesti** in *"Training and mentoring of science shops"* (TRAMS) - SAS6-013654 (2005-2008)
- **Bucuresti**: training in Iasi, Timisoara under “Training and Research in Environmental Health – the Balkans” (TREHB) (2008 – 2013)
- **Iasi, Bucharest, Brasov, Timisoara**
  - SIWMANET Sustainable and Integrated water resources management network 2006-2008.
Romanian network future depends on its:

**Strengths**
- Similar field of research
- Networking
- Support from LK Network
- Direct work with students

**Weaknesses**
- Local issues in research
- Group/local/university interests
- Low communication (no INRO meeting since 2008)
- No sharing of the received questions
- Low advertising in/outside university

**Opportunities**
- Financing through
  - National calls for Partnership Program projects
  - European projects
  - International projects
  - Professional associations
  - Private companies

**Threats**
- No funding from universities
- Voluntary basis for all Science Shops (excepting projects)
- University bureaucracy
- Apathy of the public/CS in raising research questions
- Lack of interest from CSO on scientific research
- Low number of students available for research (under Bologna Process)
- Incapacity of universities to understand the benefits
Near future plans:

- INRO meeting at TU Iasi - first half of July 2012, supported by PERARES
- An informal meeting for finding new collaboration opportunities under

EAA and Norway Grants.

http://www.eeagrans.org/id/3089  Approximately €100 million is set aside for research cooperation between Norway and Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic and Hungary. In Romania, also research entities from Iceland and Liechtenstein may participate under EEA Grants funding. The projects will be carried out until 2016.

http://www.norvegia.ro/  "NGO Support in Romania"/ Current stage: call for expressions of interest for NGO Fund Operator
Under Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 “the Grants are also stepping up the support to civil society. The €30 million NGO fund will benefit organisations promoting social justice, democracy and sustainable development in Romania. Efforts to improve the situation for children and youth, vulnerable groups, minorities and Roma will be supported.”

2. The financial contributions shall be available in the following priority sectors:
(a) Carbon capture and storage;
(b) Green industry innovation;
(c) Research and scholarship;
(d) Human and social development;
(e) Justice and home affairs;
(f) Promotion of decent work and tripartite dialogue.
Questions