



# Annual Report

## 2005

*The Mission of Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center  
is to promote and develop volunteerism  
as a viable and irreplaceable resource  
in solving the problems  
the Romanian society is now facing.*



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## Pro Vobis Letter

*Another year passed us by and looking back is always rewarding, because difficult times do not seem so difficult, now that they are gone, and successes still make us smile even after they are long gone. The year 2005 has not been an easy year for Pro Vobis. After the changes in organizational structure at the end of 2004, the team was reduced from 8 to 3 people, with a high desire of keeping all the programs running, but with only 24 hours in a day. Tough choices were ahead of the remaining team. Some programs were delayed or even suspended, awaiting their evaluation and the decision of whether to continue and how.*

*The year 2005 brought still many improvements, some long desired and waited for. Pro Vobis team welcomed Simona Serban as programs coordinator. She filled in the team with her energy, enthusiasm and dedication. We took the time to look more into our organization and invest time into things we knew we needed, but never took the time to accomplish: Pro Vobis launched its web site, [www.provobis.ro](http://www.provobis.ro) and its newsletter, Pro Vobis Smile. New internal rules have been put in place to facilitate internal communication and smooth the organizational processes. The new partnerships we entered into opened new opportunities for furthering our mission and building on the previous activities. Efforts to mobilize resources have been undertaken to overcome the scarcity and the investment starts to payoff as the early start of 2006, when these lines are being written, shows.*

*We have a challenging year ahead of us. The team needs to be enlarged to successfully face the workload and the collaboration between the executive team and the Board of Directors needs improvement. We need to continue serving at the best of our abilities our beneficiaries, the local volunteer centers and the initiative groups aiming to establish volunteer centers, but also the general public and the volunteers. We will definitely not be able to do all these without the help of all those that have been with us during 2005: volunteers, collaborators, partners, donors, colleagues and friends. A heartily thank you to all those that we came across during 2005 and with whom we hope to come together again in 2006!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cristina Nicolescu'.

*Cristina Nicolescu  
Executive Director*

# About Us

## Mission:

Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center exists to promote and develop volunteerism as a viable and irreplaceable resource in solving the problems the Romanian society is now facing.

## Vision:

**Our vision** is that of a Romanian society in which each and every person contributes voluntarily to the development of the community one lives in either by offering one's time, knowledge, energy, skills, talents or experience or by supporting financially the voluntary initiatives within the community. We dream of a society where the volunteer involvement for the community benefit represents a valued and accepted part of one's life, in harmony with other engagements to family, education, work, and recreation.

## Pro Vobis Board of Directors:

### **Gabriel Badescu**

Faculty of Political Sciences, Cluj Napoca

### **Radu Cocean**

Business Faculty, Cluj Napoca

### **Laura Ferent**

Habitat for Humanity Europe, Budapest

### **Corina Gonteanu**

Open Society Foundation, Bucharest

### **Florin Moisa**

Resource Center for Roma Communities

### **Sinziana Olteanu**

CENTRAS Resource Center, Bucharest

## Pro Vobis Team:

### **Cristina Nicolescu**

Executive Director

### **Traian Muresan**

Resource Manager

### **Simona Serban**

Programs Coordinator

### **Nicoleta Racolta**

Consultant, VC Development

### **Christopher Curtis**

Peace Corps Volunteer

## Values:

Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center, through its members, volunteers and employees \*respects and militates for equal rights for all people without discrimination, \*promotes active involvement in community life and \*believes in the unlimited ability of each community member to participate in solving the community problems. All Pro Vobis initiatives are guided by core principles such as \*nondiscrimination, \*fair treatment, \*transparency, \*efficiency, \*professionalism, \*lifelong learning, \*focusing on the needs and interests of the clients and beneficiaries, \*respect for the laws and \*social responsibility.

## Lines of Action:

- (1) Services for the promotion of the concept and practice of volunteering in Romania.
- (2) Services for the development of the infrastructure that supports the volunteer movement in Romania:
  - (a) *Services for established Volunteer Centers;*
  - (b) *Services for the organizations/institutions/groups interested in setting up volunteer centers as independent organizations, as departments or programs.*

## Promoting Volunteerism

# National Volunteer Week

## April 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005

The National Volunteer Week is an event designed for:

- Promoting the concept and the practice of volunteering;
- Increasing the visibility of volunteers in the community;
- Utilizing to its full potential the human resources existent in each community.

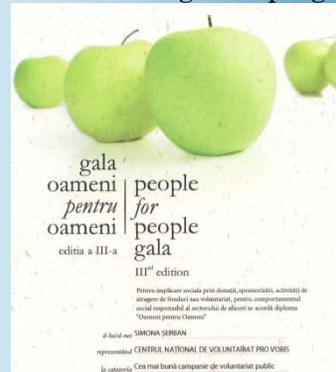
The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Volunteer Week (NVW) increased in both quality and quantity of events, activities, and participating actors. For the first time the event had a National Program gathering all the activities organized by the local partners under the NVW hallmark.

The special feature of this year's edition was the promotion of the 1% regulation allowing individuals to redirect part of their income tax towards a nonprofit entity of their choice.

### Animation for the public at NVW Matei Corvin Square, Cluj Napoca



### NVW 2005 – Best Public Volunteering Campaign



Evaluation Indicators	Where	16	Localities organized NVW
	Who	51	Organizing partners
		60	Local partner institutions
		67	Local partner organizations
		1,781	Volunteers involved in organizing events
	What	104	Activities
	Resources	45	Sponsors and financing entities
	Results	26,780	Direct beneficiaries (estimation)
	Media	38	Media collaborators
	coverage	94	Articles/news

In recognition of the growth and success of the event, the National Volunteer Week received the **Best Public Volunteering Campaign Award** at the People for People Gala, on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2005!!!

National Volunteer Week reached its 4<sup>th</sup> edition in 2005. The event was initiated by Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center in 2001. Ever since the first edition, Pro Vobis was committed to develop the event and work with the local volunteer centers to make the National Volunteer Week an effective tool for promoting volunteerism in the local communities. Pro Vobis coordinates the efforts of celebrating NVW and gathers data for the National Program of NVW and the event evaluation, and also drafts the report of the event.

# International Events

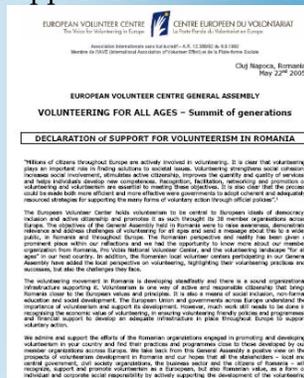
## General Assembly of the European Volunteer Center (CEV) in Cluj Napoca, Romania

May 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> 2005: Pro Vobis organized in Cluj Napoca the General Assembly of the European Volunteer Center (CEV) on the topic: **“Volunteering for All Ages – The Summit of Generations”**. CEV is a network of 38 European organizations, national and regional volunteer centers and volunteer development agencies, acting as the voice for volunteering in Europe. Pro Vobis is also member of the CEV board of directors. The CEV General Assembly was an opportunity for exchange of practices and experiences for the ten local volunteer centers in Romania attending the event. The Assembly unanimously adopted a Declaration of Support for Volunteering in Romania, underpinning the need for recognition and support of volunteering from government and pointing to the European practice.

CEV General Assembly  
Cluj Napoca Administrative Palace



### CEV Declaration of Support for Volunteering



## Euro-Forum on Volunteerism in Spain

In November 2005 Pro Vobis took part in the 1<sup>st</sup> Euro-Forum on volunteering: **“Shared challenges in the EU-25”** organized by Foundation for Solidarity and Voluntary Work of the Valencian Community (FSVCV) and the European Volunteer Center (CEV) in Valencia, Spain. Pro Vobis delivered a presentation about **“Policies Supporting Volunteerism in Romania”**. The Euro-Forum on Volunteering aspires to be a platform for reflection and coordination between public European bodies and nonprofits, so as to exchange information, good practices, experiences and concerns, with the overall objective of promoting volunteering and solidarity within the European Union.

## Volunteer Management Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina

From December 2nd to 6th Pro Vobis took part in the celebration of the International Volunteer Day in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina by being part of an international training team from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania. Pro Vobis covered the sections of **Volunteer Job Descriptions** and **Evaluation of Volunteers and Volunteer Programs** from a comprehensive volunteer management training delivered for 25 participants of NGOs involving local volunteers and Governmental Centers for Social Work that work with volunteers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training is part of a three-year strategic program for national volunteering development in the Balkans region implemented by Voluntary Service Overseas.

## Promoting Volunteerism

# Media Relations

Working with the media has been a priority for Pro Vobis in 2005. Previous years showed that working with media takes not only time, but also perseverance and professionalism. Simona Serban, the new member joining Pro Vobis team in March 2005, has successfully employed her excellent communication skills to improve collaboration with mass media.

The National Volunteer Week and the local Campaign to promote the 1% regulation benefited extensively from television coverage in Cluj Napoca. Our supporters in this effort were the local branches of the *National Romanian Television* and *Antena 1*, and the local stations *Alpha TV* and *NCN*, but also *Renasterea* radio station.

*Carriers*, a national human capital magazine targeting businesses and universities, and the *Jobs Newspaper*, a national recruitment newspaper, covered volunteerism as a form of individual and corporate social responsibility, an alternative for leisure time, and also as a means to start building a career. Both articles featured interviews with Pro Vobis staff.

## Cariere about volunteering



## Pro Vobis Web Site www.provobis.ro



# Organizational Communication

New tools aimed to facilitate the communication with media and other volunteerism stakeholders were designed in 2005 by Pro Vobis team: the organization's web site [www.provobis.ro](http://www.provobis.ro) and the newsletter *Pro Vobis Smile*. The web site, with Romanian and English versions, includes basic information about the organization, our programs and events, our team and the services we provide to support the development of the volunteer movement in Romania. The web site was visited by 289 visitors during the first two weeks after its launching in June 2005 and reached 1,503 visitors during the first 6 month of posting.

The Pro Vobis Newsletter aims to cover not only the volunteering events organized by Pro Vobis, but also the major volunteerism related initiatives in the country and around the world. The Newsletter features articles about latest events related to volunteerism and future national and international opportunities related to volunteerism. The newsletter is posted on the web site and distributed electronically to over 500 targeted organizations and individuals.

# Pro Vobis Library

Pro Vobis Library on Volunteering has been reorganized by our colleague Christopher Curtis, Peace Corps Volunteer. All the publications have been catalogued and organized in 14 categories. **The Library counts 541 titles**, 371 in the main body of publications (10 categories) and 165 titles of periodic and/or event based publications (4 categories). The table below summarizes the catalogue:

Category/Main Publications Body	Titles	Category/Main Publications Body	Titles
Models of Volunteer Programs	18	Service Learning	18
Development of Volunteer Centers	34	Training Manuals	13
Various Types of Volunteers	38	Long Term Voluntary Service	5
General Voluntary Theory	61	Civil Society Reviews	3
Corporate/Employee Volunteering	57	Miscellaneous Books	129
Periodic Publications	Titles	Event Based Publications	Titles
Magazines	54	Brochures and Leaflets	18
Annual Reports	73	Conference Reports	20

## Pro Vobis Library: New Forms



The new system of library use has been launched on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2005. By the end of the year 33 users were registered according to the new system, designed to be user friendly, while allowing Pro Vobis to keep track of the use of publications and the most requested types of information.

**Future plans** for the Library include:

- **On line posting of the catalogue;**
- **Enriching the Library** by:
  - Establishing a **section of Romanian Publications on Volunteering**, the overwhelming majority of the current titles being in English. Pro Vobis will collect student papers and other research reports on volunteering in Romanian language and focusing on Romania or comparing Romania with other countries;
  - Developing a **collection of Romania based volunteer programs** in various fields will be developed starting 2006, to allow for locally based experiences and ideas to be known and used as success stories and inspiration for new and improved volunteer programs in the country.

# Services for Volunteer Centers

The year 2005 marked increased communication and collaboration between Pro Vobis and the local volunteer centers members of the National Network of Volunteer Centers in Romania.

The service most intensely required throughout 2005 was *networking facilitation*. Thus, Pro Vobis

- facilitated the 3 network meetings (February – Cluj Napoca, June – Vladesti, October – Baia Mare);
- coordinated the activity of the Working Group on Volunteer Management Toolkit, an effort of gathering and unifying the tools employed by the local volunteer centers in the volunteer management process and managing their relationship with the beneficiary organizations in the local communities;
- informed and consulted the volunteer centers about legal issues involving volunteerism;
- informed the volunteer centers about publications, reports, training and other local, national and international opportunities (out of the 458 messages exchanged in 2005 on the electronic discussion list of the network 172 have been sent by Pro Vobis staff)

Volunteer Management Toolkit  
Working Group Meeting in Cluj Napoca



Network Meetings  
Vladesti, June 2005



The efforts of Pro Vobis to help establish new local volunteer centers continued in 2005 with contacts in 8 new locations where organizations contacted Pro Vobis looking for assistance and support in their efforts. The initiative in Oradea has progressed rapidly, being on the way to join the National Network of Volunteer Centers in early 2006. Pro Vobis's support for the new initiatives consisted of facilitation of set up meetings with relevant stakeholders in the local community, consultancy, training and assistance in setting up the volunteer center and organizing initial activities.

**Future plans** in the area of services for the volunteer centers include:

- **Training on volunteer center concept and development** for the new initiatives to set up volunteer center;
- **Implementation of the volunteer management toolkit** (evaluate the tools, and monitor data on volunteer involvement through volunteer centers)
- Revise and improved the section on the Volunteer Center Network on [www.voluntariat.ro](http://www.voluntariat.ro);
- **Strengthen the network** through common activities, network meetings, and improved services.

# Pilot Programs

## Developing Corporate Social Responsibility

### Business to Business Coalition

The project “Developing Corporate Social Responsibility” in Cluj aims to bring together companies in the Cluj region willing to engage in developing and implementing corporate social responsibility projects, to create partnerships and facilitate collaboration with other stakeholders in the local community, such as nonprofit sector and local authorities, by engaging in a business-to-business coalition. The project partners are Uniconnect Timisoara and the Association for Community Relations in Cluj.

The project for developing corporate social responsibility in Cluj is an innovative method employed by Pro Vobis to promote and develop volunteerism by bringing to the attention of the companies engaged in the society the importance of supplementing their financial and/or material investments with supporting the volunteer involvement of their employees, of the beneficiaries of the projects and of the community overall.

Launching the CSR Program  
September 2005, Cluj Napoca



CSR Newsletter



## “Companies for Community” Campaign

The campaign “*Companies for Community*” is a joint initiative of the Association for Community relations, the Cluj County Prefect’s Institution and Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center. The campaign aims to mobilize local resources to support selected projects proposed by local nonprofits. The projects have to address issues of relevance to the local community and include a volunteering component as part of the proposed solution. Six of the 15 projects submitted were selected and promoted to the business community and the wider public with the support of the local media. Projects were completed successfully and the campaign will continue in 2006 with a new approach.

The campaign is a first step of a wider effort to mobilize local resources for addressing the problems of the local community and also to bring together the three sectors (government, for profit and nonprofit) in this effort. The campaign wishes to be the basis of the future Community Foundation of the Cluj County.

# Strategic Partnerships

The year 2005 has been a fresh start of new strategic partnerships for Pro Vobis. The Cluj County Prefecture, the Association for Community Relations and Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center started a long term partnership aiming to find creative ways for mobilizing resources to address community problems. The first actions of the partnership were:

- The local campaign to promote the 1% regulation (live talk shows on local television, public exhibitions of local nonprofits, partnerships with large public companies, such as postal services, national railways etc, to facilitate access to information). The campaign was successful and Cluj County received the second largest amount of money redirected using the 1% mechanism, after the capital city.
- The “Companies for Community Campaign” as the first step towards establishing the Community Foundation of Cluj Napoca.

## Partnership for Community Resources Mobilization





**CAMPANIA ALĂTURĂ DE COMUNITATE**

**Aveti în vedere problema de interes pentru oarecari cetățeni persoane și întreprinderi să atrageți resurse locale pentru punerea lor în practică!**

Asociația pentru Relații Comunitare, Instituția Prefecturală Județului Cluj și Centrul Național de Voluntariat Pro Vobis vă invită să luați parte la campania „**Campații alături de comunitate**” prin care ne propunem **mobilizarea resurselor locale** pentru a rezolva câteva din problemele comunității clujene.

Invităm organizații non-profit care lucrează pentru cauze locale și care sunt interesate să strângă resurse din comunitate pentru rezolvarea acestora, ca mod alternativ la programele de finanțare instituționale, să trimită propoziții de inițiativă concrete care să fie promovate în cadrul campaniei. Prin organizații non-profit, înțelegem atât organizații neguvernamentale (ONG) dar și alte instituții de interes public: apăsătoare/centre culturale, educaționale sau sociale.

Campația urmează să primească atenția implicării în comunitate a firmelor clujene iar pe termen mediu lung, creșterea unui mediu favorabil dezvoltării unor programe de responsabilitate socială corporativă.

Din acest motiv, campania nu își propune scopul de a atrage foarte mare de noi din Cluj ci doar a câteva inițiative și proiecte care se adresează unor grupuri cu anumite nevoi. Existăm un număr între 5 și 7 secții care vor fi prezentate opinii publice și sectorului de afaceri. Prin această campanie dorim să obținem susținere de afaceri pentru a contribui la rezolvarea lor și **promovarea sectorului companiilor ca fiind prezente de colaborare atât pentru mediul non-profit cât și pentru cel de afaceri.**

Cuantele promovate în rândul comunității de afaceri clujene se trebuie să urmărească următoarele **prize:**

- **Să existe interese și sfere de interes în rezolvarea problemelor, fie din partea celor afectați, fie din partea unei organizații non-profit** (caz: personală și părinți ai copiilor de la grădinița învecinată de jumătate de ora să rezolve acoperirea câmpului și există un comitat care se ocupă de acest proiect)

## City Hall Strategic Planning Meetings



Primăria și Consiliul Local Cluj Napoca

**Anunț de desfășurare PROCESULUI DE PLANIFICARE STRATEGICĂ pentru DEZVOLTAREA MUNICIPIULUI CLUJ NAPOCA**

**și VĂ INVITĂ SĂ VĂ EXPRIMAȚI OPINIILE referitoare la prioritățile orașului în următoarele domenii:**

- Dezvoltarea urbană, infrastructură
- Transport, siguranță circulației
- Dezvoltarea economiei locale
- Încălzirea pretermedie
- Protecția mediului
- Întreținerea, actualizarea sistemelor
- Educație, cultură, servicii sociale
- Politici comunitare îndreptate către
- Politici comunitare pentru tineret
- Politici comunitare la sport
- Politici comunitare la servicii
- OMI, servicii sociale
- Politici comunitare de mediu
- Politici de incluziune

**CONTEINE**

- Prin email la adresa [clujnapoca@yahoocom](mailto:clujnapoca@yahoocom)
- În scris: după un document la Primărie (pe formularul specific disponibil la oficiul de servicii – str. Măgălar nr. 1-3)

The City Hall and Local Council of Cluj Napoca initiated a participatory strategic planning process to draft the development plan for the city. Pro Vobis has been part of the process participating in the initial meeting that defined the vision for the city:

*“Cluj Napoca will be a regional center for innovation and opportunities, an attractive tourist destination, a nice place to live, work and study; a city with open and responsible local authorities, active citizens, and a dynamic and engaged business community.”*

The high potential for volunteerism of the Cluj community was listed as one of the strength of the city and increasing the volunteer involvement of the local community is one of the priorities. Simona Serban, Pro Vobis’s programs coordinator has volunteered to be part of the strategic planning team, attending meetings, taking notes, preparing draft documents for the meetings, and providing logistic support in organizing the meetings.

# Financial Report

## Revenues 2005

<b>Revenues 2005</b>	<b>RON</b>	<b>USD<sup>2</sup></b>
Income from grants	143,868.00	49,377.15
Income generating activities	4,746.00	1,628.88
Income from interest	48.00	16.47
<b>Total Revenues 2005</b>	<b>148,662.00</b>	<b>51,022.51</b>
Balance 2004 <sup>1</sup>	110,450.00	37,907.71
<b>Total available for 2005</b>	<b>259,112.00</b>	<b>88,930.22</b>

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The balance of 2004 is due to the arrival in December of an installment from a multiyear project.

<sup>2</sup> The exchange rates used are 29.136,55 ROL / USD and 36.234,38 ROL / EUR.

<b>Institutional Donors</b>	<b>Amount<sup>2</sup></b>
CS Mott Foundation	\$35,000.00
Open Society Foundation	\$753.00
European Union	10,112.65 €
European Volunteer Center	716.00 €

### Pro Vobis Donors in 2005



## Expenditure 2005

<b>Expenditure 2005</b>	<b>RON</b>	<b>USD<sup>1</sup></b>
Personnel	61,935.00	21,256.80
Office supplies and equipments	44,687.00	15,337.09
Services (communications, utilities, security etc.)	31,958.00	10,968.35
Program costs (events, travel, publications, etc.)	15,372.00	5,275.84
Membership fees	1,033.00	354.53
<b>Total Expenditure 2005</b>	<b>154,985.00</b>	<b>\$53,192.63</b>

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The exchange rates used are 29.136,55 ROL / USD and 36.234,38 ROL / EUR.

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