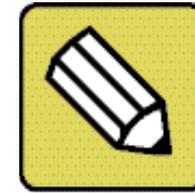


The Tree in the Box



Location:

Bucharest (Romania)

Duration:

October 2005 - May 2006

Project budget: \$944.25

Youth organisation : The Association for Development and Innovation (ADI)

Background:

The project involved over 50 high school students aged 15 - 17 from the National College St Sava Bucharest in producing hand made paper from the recycling paper they collected within their high school.

The activities took place in a rented apartment so that the teenagers had access to water, electricity and all the utilities needed for the paper making process. They needed space to dry the sheets of paper and to manufacture the small objects out of the produced paper (small bags and boxes).

The young people scheduled the activities every week on Sunday or Saturday when they had more free time and worked in groups of 5 - 10 people.

Conclusion:

The most important results of the project are:

-50 high school teenagers trained and skilled in producing hand made paper on a very simple technique;

-over 1,000 high school teenagers motivated to develop paper collecting activities within their high school in order to be recycled;



-over 190 hours of workshops on paper recycling which stimulated teenagers' creativity and motivated them to become involved in similar activities;

-a permanent collaboration with their high school to collect recycling paper which can be used in similar activities for the students or can be sold to the recycling companies;

-a partnership with another NGO (Mediaorg) which is very interested in developing the project to involve more high schools and more teenagers;

-a collaboration with a jewels manufacturer which is interested to buy the small paper boxes to use them as package for the jewels. This issue is still under "negotiation", but the teenagers are very interested in continuing the project, especially because the summer holiday is very close and they will have a lot of free time. They intend to use the money from selling small paper boxes to decorate their classrooms and to buy didactic materials (maps, etc);

In terms of development of the young people, this project was a great opportunity for them to meet and to discuss a large number of topics, some of them related to their education but most of them related to very pragmatic things. Following the discussions, the Association for Development and Innovation organized a series of training sessions and debates with the young people in order to meet their needs for development. When the young people expressed their fear of presenting the project or some of the products, the association organized a training session on public speaking, communication and presentation skills. We decided to transform this project into a permanent activity of the association so that we can give teenagers the chance to develop their creativity and continue the efforts to convince their colleagues and friends to recycle paper.