

Case 2: CARITAS Association



Who?

CARITAS Association is a social enterprise that runs a set of successful work integration organizations in a medium city in Romania (30 000 inhabitants) with a limited social service network. It was founded in 1997 functioning under the blessing of the Catholic Church and developed a diverse range of jobs for women at risk.

What?

CA's aim has been:

- to support young women from the Cimpulung area who left orphanage at the age of 18 (this is the age until they can benefit from the state protection) and young single mothers.
- To train and prepare young women at risk for life and for the labour market

Why?

In spite of living together in two apartments bought by the SE and being trained as hair stylists, tailors and ITs they couldn't find a job. CA 's solution was to create social enterprises: pastry production and tailoring and to employ the girls offering on-the job training.

How?

CA set up a tailor shop and a traditional restaurant. The former benefited by the

help of a professional French tailor who trained the girls how to create trousers and who facilitated the SE's access to customers. A farm has been bought and some of the hardest cases (victims of trafficking) worked in the farm and mini-milk factory. For the traditional restaurant they received voluntary help from some managers from Bucharest who trained the young women and which proved to be successful. The main source of income 80% is the surplus they register, the rest 20% being supported by the CCA's funds, exclusively from donors.

Where?

The CA' is located in Campulung and the neighbouring rural areas. The restaurant offers only fresh products which are produced in the SE's farm. The tailor shop is unsustainable in spite of the qualitative products.

Conclusion

The economic indicators are of less importance if we compare with intervention on the beneficiaries. The four social businesses that the association runs have contributed highly to changing the lives of tens of socially excluded women who become productive in their community.

Web Links:

<http://www.caritasmuscel.ro>

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<https://www.facebook.com/Asocia%C8%9Bia-Caritas-C%C3%A2mpulung-625311577495016/>

Supporting Photos:

