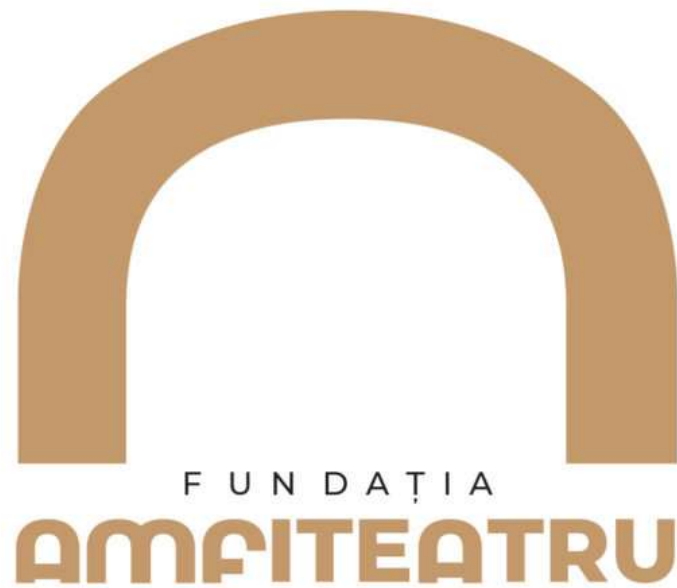




ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

Despite the crisis and uncertainties generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Amfiteatru Foundation continued to strengthen its traditional programs in 2021 as well. Certainly, one of the challenges of the past year was rapid adaptation to the "new normality", and the fact that we strictly fulfilled our assumed professional and social commitments confirms this.

As a people-centric organization, we designed and implemented local-level programs and actions focused on real-life issues. How did we do it? By combining expertise with the exchange of experience, drawing on accumulated practices from local development, cultural, editorial, and health programs. 2021 was also the year when we decided to stop acting merely as teachers and experts, but also as facilitators and mentors. We slightly shifted our perspective and decided to work directly with our beneficiaries to help them transform their own contexts (social, economic, administrative-political) themselves. To this end, we introduced the empowerment and civic action

component into our projects and programs for the first time. This is how projects like "Nucleo - Action in Ferentari" or "Avdives Khetanes" were born.

Also in 2021, we undertook the merger of the programs we run, bringing specific components, experts, and know-how from each individual program into project implementation. This is how we brought theater into local development projects. This is how we brought journalistic content into social projects. And this is how we brought expertise in organizing and managing target groups into cultural projects.

The Amfiteatru Foundation set out to bring together cores of professionals from multiple fields (culture, health) and interconnect them through the actions we run. From this perspective, 2021 also marked the transition from an organization that merely acts, to an organization that acts, connects, and mentors. Our initiatives are backed by studies and analyses specifically designed for the problems and needs of each community. Here at Amfiteatru, we do not apply standard recipes; instead, we customize everything we do.

At the local level, we opted for a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach involving all stakeholders - both public authority representatives and other informal opinion leaders, civil society organizations, business partners, and development partners. We work "at the grassroots level" with locals and try to help them solve their problems on their own (Nucleo & Avdives Khetanes). For us, what we began in 2021 represents a quite significant shift in perspective.

The intervention process is action-oriented and structured around concrete issues, and the Foundation has embraced an entrepreneurial vocation. We help participants (partners, beneficiaries, clients, etc.) develop concrete ways of working and offer mentorship and counseling.

We combine content expertise with vocational training delivery and connect globally with the local perspective, intertwining theory with practice. We do this by facilitating an active exchange of knowledge and experience through exercises, meetings, forums, courses, study visits, and innovative collaboration methods.

BRIEF 2021

What we dared to do was better interconnect people and communities, facilitate and encourage interdisciplinarity, and nurture collaborative projects and interventions. Last but

not least, we assumed a specific type of assistance toward smaller NGOs, offering them institutional umbrella support, counseling, and aid in attracting funding.

What we succeeded in doing was to continue articulating our programs by concentrating them into integrated interventions at the level of professional or territorial communities. Horizontal, diversified action directed toward a broad yet harder-to-define audience is beginning to be replaced by vertical, niche action featuring a "target" audience, clear objectives, and increasingly quantifiable results.

NEW PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMS LAUNCHED IN 2021

Tourism Observatory

The Tourism Observatory is the newest product launched within the "Productive Hospitality" program. It is a useful tool that provides interested parties with market information regarding decision-making in the public sector or development opportunities for companies and professionals in the hospitality industry and related fields.

The editorial program also proposes a Monthly Report, a document that synthesizes the most important theoretical and practical concerns related to hospitality. We use materials from Romanian and international public sources, statistics, studies, analyses, and our own research. The latest report, published at the end of the year, can be accessed [here](#).

The product was launched in August 2021, and the Monthly Bulletins have come to be read by over 1,000 people, professionals in fields related to productive hospitality.

More details at <https://observatorturistic.ro/>

Amfiteatru Meetings

The year 2021 proved once again, if proof were still needed, the importance of local development and empowerment. The new series of online conferences titled "Amfiteatru Meetings" comes to respond to this need. The purpose of our program is to capitalize on community resources in a multidisciplinary and interactive way, designed to activate human and social capital and generate best practices for the use of local material and immaterial production.

Among the topics covered were models of community development, human and social capital, productive hospitality, responsible tourism, entrepreneurship, and digitalization.

Thus, between April and December 2021, 7 events took place, attended by over 200 people. Summaries can be watched on the Amfiteatru Foundation's YouTube channel.

We confess that these ideas have formed the basis of our programs and projects for some time. However, the pandemic forced us, perhaps brutally, to insist on the two axes of community intervention: education and entrepreneurship. We promise to continue capitalizing on shared accomplishments together with our traditional partners, while remaining open to new collaborations.

Internship Program

This program was launched in the autumn of 2021 and is aimed at young people at the beginning of their journey, with the goal of facilitating their access to a professional environment where they can acquire relevant experience. Since we place emphasis on the desire to learn and take responsibility, there will be direct involvement on their part in the projects we run. Throughout the program, participants will have the opportunity to learn directly from specialists and strengthen their competencies and skills.

The program is ongoing, and the Foundation is currently looking for interns in the following fields: journalism and cultural studies; productive hospitality; public policies; socio-human sciences; health; marketing and accounting; implementation of European programs.

SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

If real development begins at the local level, then 2021 was an intense and challenging year for us as well.

Through our social development programs, we pursue integrated social interventions in relevant social areas, namely education, employment, social and socio-medical services, housing, and fostering access to information regarding the social and civic rights of community members.

For beneficiaries, we target long-term effects—social effects at the family level, not just the individual level, by combating marginalization; economic effects, through labor market integration and the promotion of the local economy by launching local businesses.

Here are some of the results recorded in 2021:

- Formation of a community action group in the Ferentari neighborhood (Tunsu Petre, Zăbrăuți, Alea Livezilor, Iacob Andrei, Alea Șureanu areas, etc.), composed of 30-40 active people;

- Successful implementation of two advocacy campaigns: the first targeting rat extermination in the Ferentari neighborhood, and the second targeting the installation of speed bumps on Zăbrăuți Street;
- 5 petitions submitted to the registry of District 5 City Hall by the community action group regarding various issues facing the Ferentari neighborhood (street lighting, asphalt paving, building insulation, park landscaping);
- 10 specialists from Belin and Bucharest trained in Roma inclusion techniques;
- 110 children from Belin benefited from 80 hours of remedial education, as well as 3 extracurricular activity workshops;
- 110 children from Belin and 140 from Bucharest (Ferentari) benefited from a 1-month summer program that included workshops in photography, civic education, painting, dance, music, science workshops, etc.;
- Integrated programs for 320 elderly individuals to increase social inclusion and improve their quality of life;
- Support for 1,600 people from marginalized communities with difficult access to medical assistance;
- 300 adults from Ferentari benefited from free health services;
- Integrated interventions at the level of marginalized communities to reduce the number of people in a state of poverty and social exclusion (over 1,600 people were included);
- Infrastructure interventions at the level of marginalized communities (over 130 people improved their living conditions);
- Educational interventions at the level of marginalized communities (over 90 teachers benefited from educational services);
- Interventions in the entrepreneurial field (supporting entrepreneurship in marginalized communities by establishing 105 local businesses)

CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Dedicated to the performing arts, CALEIDO is a program that celebrates diversity in all its forms. We tackle social issues using the weapons of empathy, giving a voice to the most vulnerable among us. What began as a theater festival has rapidly transformed into a platform for diverse yet equally valuable voices.

At Caleido, we select and produce only shows that address "non-conformist" topics, touch upon acute social and cultural issues, or challenge (and sometimes even contest) dominant narratives. We bring together artists with very different aesthetics and backgrounds, aiming to achieve innovative approaches to already established artistic styles.

Beyond Caleido, we have started getting involved in the development of the artistic community - through productions, support for independent troupes and theaters, and through counseling and consulting.

The Caleido Festival

For five days, between May 21- 25, 2021, two of the Capital's performance halls hosted the Caleido Festival. During this event, 20 theater, dance, and performance shows were presented to the public—free of charge, from the vimeo.com/caleido platform: Pe ei!, Libretto Impostura, American Gypsy, Reverse discourse, Infinit pozitiv, Magic is a condition that kills people in all kinds of performative hazards, Uitasem, Singing Bodies Trilogy, Limite, Nu toți sunt eroi, Domeniul luptei, APR [Adorație Performance-ului Radical], Pelicanul, Bildungswoman, Singurătatea pietrelor, Aleea stereotipurilor, Domnișoara Iulia, Bambina, regina florilor, Daughters, Neverland.

Festival participants could easily and freely access the shows by going to vimeo.com/caleido, a link that was also constantly shared on the Caleido Facebook page.

During the festival period, 20 already recorded Caleido Talks podcasts from the period leading up to the festival were published on the caleido.ro platform. The recordings can still be accessed for free on the caleido.ro platform.

Results obtained: 3,335 participants in the festival shows, 722 at Caleido Talks; 94 artists (actors, directors, performers, dancers) who sustained the shows, out of whom 6 were involved in the production of a new one—APR [Adorație Performance-ului Radical]; approximately 3,800 people read the materials/editorials published on www.caleido.ro.

The Caleido Tour

In November–December 2021, 7 performances of the Caleido productions” Domnișoara Iulia” and APR [Adorație Performance-ului Radical] took place.

”Domnișoara Iulia” was performed at the Fani Tardini Dramatic Theater in Galați (November 12), the Toma Caragiu Theater in Ploiești (November 19), the Maier Gheorghe Pastia Theater (December 11), and twice at the Uteatru Theater in Bucharest (December 18 and 19).

APR [Adorație Performance-ului Radical] was performed at Uteatru on December 11 and 12.

Physical participants at the 7 performances during the Caleido Tour: 547;

Online audience of the communication and promotion campaign: 45,285 people;

Members of the artistic teams involved in the shows during the Caleido Tour: 11 artists.

PARTNERSHIPS, NETWORKS, CLUSTERS

Romania Health Medical Cluster

The Romania Health Cluster brings together top sanitary units, medical service providers, professional organizations, higher education and scientific research units, health facilitators, catalyst organizations, etc. It is in an active professional relationship with other medical entities or those carrying out activities related to the medical field, with the common goal of promoting the highest level of quality and safety in patient healthcare. The interventions of the Romania Health Cluster aim to strengthen trust in the quality and safety of medical services provided by its members for patients in Romania and abroad.

GlocalRO Cluster

The main purpose of the cluster is to increase the reputation and strengthen trust in the quality of local products and services for customers in Romania and abroad. The cluster represents a window of opportunity, serving as an instrument for sustainable economic development by affirming the anthropic and natural potential of the territory.

Working Networks

The Amfiteatru Foundation is an active member in a series of clusters, networks, and LAGs (Local Action Groups):

- Health Factory - Innovative Cluster;
- Transylvania Regional Balneotourism Cluster;
- Oltenia Health Tourism Cluster;
- MEDRO Health Cluster Network;
- Balkan Health Tourism Cluster;
- ICRT - International Centre for Responsible Tourism;
- LAG - Together We Develop District 5.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Amfiteatru Foundation thanks the community members, partners, and funders with whom we worked in 2021. With a large portion of them, we will continue to develop programs in the coming years.

Communities

Center Region (Alba, Braşov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureş, and Sibiu counties), Constanţa County, Belin Vale (Covasna), Crivăţ (Călăraşi), Letca Nouă (Giurgiu), Racoviţa (Sibiu), Bucharest - District 5, Ferentari neighborhood, Amurgului neighborhood.

Project Partners

Letca Nouă City Hall and Letca Nouă Gymnasium School; Crivăţ City Hall and "Nicolae Petrescu" Gymnasium School Crivăţ; Belin City Hall and "Bölöni Farkas Sándor" Gymnasium School Belin, Racoviţa City Hall, En-Joy Education Association, District 5 City Hall, Kindergarten No. 54 "Mihai Eminescu", Kindergarten No. 34, Kindergarten No. 245, Kindergarten No. 53, Gymnasium School with Kindergarten No. 144, Green Paradise Kindergarten No. 169, Gymnasium School No. 125, Căminul Phillip Foundation, RomActiv Business Solutions, Europas Association, "Marius Nasta" Institute of Pneumophthisiology, Giurgiu County Council, AJOFM Constanţa, AJOFM Covasna, ASIMCOV, Respiro - Human Rights Research Center Association, Arte Development & Management, Omnia Photo Association, Lise Wulff, CEDCA Association.

Funders

European Social Fund via the Human Capital Operational Program, PMU Culture, Romanian Social Development Fund, Civil Society Development Foundation.

PROJECTS RUN, COMPLETED, OR LAUNCHED IN 2021

"Integrated measures for the development and capitalization of the potential of Letca Nouă commune", a project that helps the balanced socio-economic development of Letca Nouă commune (Giurgiu county) by offering integrated professional training programs, labor market mediation, and the promotion of the local economy.

"Development of Crivăţ commune through integrated measures", a project contributing to the balanced socio-economic development of Crivăţ commune (Călăraşi county) through integrated

professional training programs, labor market mediation, educational programs for children, and the promotion of the local economy through the launch of new local businesses.

"Integrated local development in Belin commune", a project aimed at the balanced socio-economic development of Belin commune (Covasna county) by offering integrated professional training programs, labor market mediation, and the promotion of the local economy through the launch of new local businesses.

"Increasing the quality of life of the elderly in Bucharest and promoting active aging by providing social services", a project whose general objective is to increase social inclusion and improve the quality of life for elderly people in the municipality of Bucharest who belong to vulnerable categories, overcoming vulnerability by providing social/medical/socio-professional services.

"Integrated development Racovița", a project related to integrated social intervention in social areas such as employment, social and socio-medical services, housing, and fostering community members' access to information regarding their social and civic rights.

"#FACTS: Amurgului Urban Regeneration", a project contributing to increased access and participation in education, solving the problem of studies/professional training and employment, improving living conditions, increasing access to social services, and improving the general health status of the population.

"#FACTS: Establishment of pre-preschool groups at Kindergarten No. 54, Kindergarten No. 34, and Kindergarten No. 245", a project aiming to increase participation in pre-preschool education, with an emphasis on children from the Roma minority and those from marginalized and disadvantaged environments in District 5 of Bucharest.

"#FACTS: Establishment of pre-preschool groups at Kindergarten No. 53, Gymnasium School with Kindergarten No. 144, and Green Paradise Kindergarten No. 169", a project aimed at increasing participation in pre-preschool education with an emphasis on children from the Roma minority and those from marginalized and disadvantaged environments in District 5, Bucharest.

"Intercultural dialogue and increasing public access to culture", a project that aimed to organize cultural events (theater, performance, photography) in which spectators took part physically in Bucharest, Galați, Ploiești, and online on the Vimeo platform.

"Avdives, khetanes" ("Today, together") is a project aimed at improving quality of life, inclusion, and empowerment of Roma communities from two marginalized areas of Romania—Belin commune, Covasna county, and the Ferentari neighborhood, Bucharest.

"Nucleo - Activation in Ferentari" is a project that aims to form an action core among the residents of the area. They will be informed and trained in community development and advocacy, thereby ensuring a real channel of access to the rights of the neighborhood's citizens. The purpose of these actions is to strengthen ties between people in the community and to attract other people from different areas of the sector or the capital to the community's side.

"For NEET youth" is a project that will help in the professional development and labor market integration of NEET youth from Constanța county through a targeted and integrated intervention, thus promoting inclusive, sustainable, and quality employment of the workforce and contributing to the reduction of social inequalities.

"Integrated intervention for NEET youth in the Center region" is a project aimed at improving the skill level and increasing employment among NEET youth registered with the Public Employment Service who reside or are domiciled in the Center region.