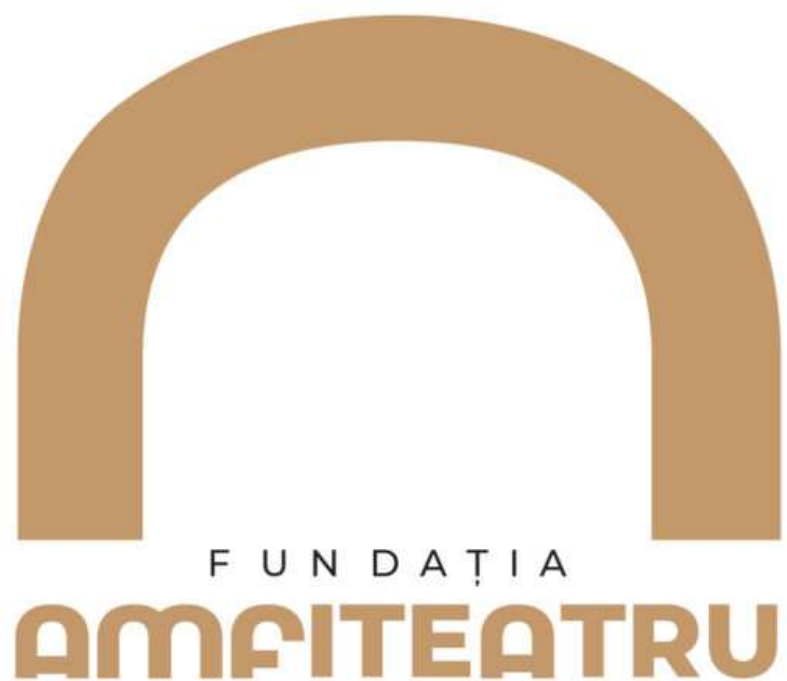




ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

For the Amfiteatru Foundation, 2023 was a year of continuity, in line with the vision that guides our activities. The Foundation's programs are dedicated to community development by capitalizing on human potential and social capital. We pursue long-term objectives, therefore continuity is a key factor.

We began working with new communities (Jilava, Timișoara, Vama Buzăului), while also continuing to advance integrated interventions in the communities we have been working with for a longer period, especially in the South-East, South Muntenia, and Center regions.

Mutual trust, solid partnerships, and valuable collaborators are the premises for our future actions.

AMFITEATRU FOUNDATION PROGRAMS IN 2023

CALEIDO - CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND PERFORMING ARTS

Since its inception in 2015, Caleido has evolved as a platform for intercultural dialogue, focusing on constructive debate of ideas, cultural education, and a diverse range of artistic voices. Promoting diversity, empathy, and non-conformity as its core values, while exploring current social and cultural issues and continually questioning dominant narratives, Caleido has made it a conviction to build open and diverse spaces for artists and audiences alike.

Caleido is a mature program recognized by the public, the independent artists' community, and representative cultural institutions, having also been included in the official selection of the Timișoara 2023 - European Capital of Culture program.

In 2023, the program featured two components: "Caleido - Festival of Performing Arts" and "Young Theatre in Vama Buzăului".

Caleido - Festival of Performing Arts

As part of the Timișoara 2023 - European Capital of Culture program, this marked the first time an independent performing arts festival was hosted inside a shopping mall. In fact, Caleido 2023 was the Amfiteatru Foundation's most visible program - over 750,000 people came into contact with the festival's events or communication campaign.

The festival's concept in 2023 - togetherness - stemmed from affirming the need for connection, support, and meaningful relationships, especially within a global socio-political context dominated by climate, economic, and humanitarian crises, unbalanced power relations, and glaring inequalities. Translated artistically, togetherness reflects the need for solidarity in the face of ongoing challenges, artistic contexts, shared spaces, or ethical and empathetic communities, as well as invigorating, satisfying, and restorative interactions.

In numbers:

- 20 theatre, contemporary dance, and performance shows;
- 2 contemporary dance workshops;
- 5 debates;
- 5 partner venues: Iulius Town, Teatru Basca, Auăleu, Cărturești, FITT;
- 1200 spectators.

The event featured a significant cultural exchange component between Romania and Norway, facilitated by the partnership established with cultural manager Morten Bruun. Through this collaboration, we were able to work with two artistic teams, represented by Francesco Scavetta and Jonas Oren, who brought a significant cultural and educational contribution to the Caleido Festival and, consequently, to the cultural life of the Timișoara public.

Furthermore, the partnership between the Amfiteatru Foundation and our Norwegian partners holds further potential for growth, and we are exploring new collaboration opportunities with the two artistic teams in the form of creative residencies and artistic productions.

Caleido Talks presented a series of five debates designed to facilitate and sustain the vital space for dialogue, serving as a meeting place for artists, specialists from various fields, and the public, while striving to address questions we consider necessary and timely. Their ultimate goal is to interrogate current realities, highlight the multiplicity of perspectives and artistic actions, and foster the much-needed context for shared reflection.

As always, in 2023 Caleido remained a space for shared reflection, at times challenging or uncomfortable, but always dynamic, inclusive, and empathetic. A space for encounters with ideas, people, and communities, with other arts and fields, staying true to its mission of celebrating diversity in all its forms.

Young Theatre in Vama Buzăului

In Vama Buzăului, 80 young people aged between 12 and 18 participated in a series of artistic workshops: set design, acting, choreography, costume design, music direction, playwriting, communication, and photography.

The project continues into 2024, aiming to educate young people through non-formal methods by applying school-acquired knowledge practically to theatrical production, and will conclude with a series of shows and photography exhibitions.

Ultimately, the 80 young people will organize a series of events including theatre performances and photography exhibitions.

ESSENTIAL ROMANIA - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONS

In our vision, the community is not only the place where knowledge and capital accumulate and settle, but also where they are renewed and expanded. The "Essential Romania" program involves integrated interventions at the local level and represents our program with the greatest direct impact on the communities where we operate. Furthermore, 2023 was one of the years with the most significant results.

We operated in 30 communities across the South-East, South Muntenia, and Center regions, tailoring different directions for each area based on the needs identified during our research process: intercultural development, professional training for NEETs youth, and an extensive vocational and entrepreneurial training program.

Intercultural Development

We designed a project centered around the concept of empowerment, through which we support vulnerable individuals in Jilava Commune to actually exercise their rights - not just on paper. Thus, the project will produce long-term positive effects across multiple levels, addressing the systematic and interdependent issues affecting the Roma community.

The project activities included intercultural training, an educational program and extracurricular activities for preschoolers and schoolchildren, empowerment workshops through rights access and culture, health prevention and education, community

organizing, and others. The commune's residents enjoyed a 4-day theatre festival held in Morii Park.

Results:

- Over 200 students benefited from extracurricular activities (science workshop, theatre workshop, music workshop, painting workshop, arts and crafts workshop, etc.);
- 700 residents of the commune (adults and children, Roma and Romanian ethnics) benefited from medical services;
- 200 Roma adults were trained in workshops on social rights;
- 270 students from School no. 2 benefited from remedial education;
- 200 Roma parents benefited from parenting education workshops held at School no. 2 in Jilava;
- Over 500 people attended the theatre festival in October;
- 25 Roma residents of the commune benefited from skills assessment in fields such as bricklayer, waiter, or elderly caregiver;
- 250 people benefited from career counseling.

Professional Training for NEET Youth

NEET youth are individuals aged between 16 and 29 who are neither enrolled in the education system nor in any training or employment scheme. Their main challenge lies in finding a job amidst a reduced and limited supply, characterized by low wages and conditioned by daily commuting.

A large portion of NEET youth in Romania are long-term unemployed, another symptom of being trapped in a vicious circle of poverty, multiple discrimination, and social exclusion that is difficult to escape without resolving educational issues.

The program targeted the Center and South-East regions and contributed to solving this cluster of problems by offering a professional training program. The integrated intervention involved a combination of activities: job brokerage services to ease young people's access to employers, additional support measures, accessibility measures for

people from isolated areas, and social innovation measures. We organized roundtables, job fairs and caravans, and career counseling activities for NEET youth.

Results:

- 2,055 NEET youth benefited from professional mediation;
- 873 NEET youth attended professional training courses;
- 685 NEET youth were reintegrated into the labor market.

Professional Training and Entrepreneurship

Implemented in the Center region, the project offered professional training courses for labor market integration, promoting a flexible and sustainable market. It thus contributed to a series of broader objectives: achieving a 75% employment rate for the 20-64 age group by 2027, reducing the risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 7% by 2027, and ensuring the effective participation of people with disabilities in daily life and the labor market.

Results:

- 1,000 people mediated, counseled, or informed;
- 1,131 people benefited from professional training courses;
- 673 grants awarded to individuals who completed a course;
- 272 employment support packages;
- 127 SMEs supported in developing and introducing workplace learning programs;
- 4 newly established companies.

ROMANIA HEALTH - PROGRAM FOR BUILDING TRUST IN MEDICAL SERVICES

The Amfiteatru Foundation focused its health program on building trust in the quality and safety of medical services, both for patients in Romania and from abroad.

In 2023, we organized the national consensus conference on drafting the 3rd edition of the Healthcare-Associated Infections Management Guide, as well as a series of regional conferences under the general theme of drafting and implementing diagnostic and treatment protocols.

The conference dedicated to the Guide took place from June 15-17, 2023, in Târgu Mureș. Organized under the auspices of the Romania Health Cluster, in institutional partnership with the National Authority for Quality Management in Healthcare, the event brought together over 100 healthcare professionals - epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists, nurses, members of quality management structures within medical units, hospital managers, and health service evaluators.

- The regional conferences took place in Constanța, Târgu Mureș, and Iași, facilitating three essential processes:
- understanding the importance of implementing a functional quality management system for healthcare services;
- preparing hospitals for accreditation evaluation;
- maintaining and improving the functionality of the healthcare quality management structure.

The regional conference series was organized in partnership with the National Authority for Quality Management in Healthcare and coordinated by Dr. Vasile Cepoi.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As always, we thank everyone who contributed to the successes of the Amfiteatru Foundation's programs - community members, project partners, and funders. With all those listed below, we have built a relationship based on trust, and with each of them, we share common values and a vision in which the role of communities is increasingly important and recognized. The year 2024 is shaping up to be full of challenges, and we are truly grateful to have people by our side with whom we look forward to the future with confidence. A special mention goes to the team at Banca Transilvania, whom we thank for their solid partnership and for standing by us since our early years.

Communities

Acățari, Belin, Borsec, Castelu, Cătălina, Codlea, Constanța, Cuza Vodă, Doboșeni, Frațești, Ghelița, Giurgiu, Hârșova, Ineu, Jilava, Medgidia, Miercurea Ciuc, Nicolae Bălcescu, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Oinacu, Prejmer, Racovița, Sfântu Gheorghe, Târgu Mureș, Tușnad, Valea Crișului, Vama Buzăului, Vâlcele, the independent artist communities from the performing arts sector in Timișoara, Bucharest, and Cluj.

Project Partners

AJOFM Constanța, EN-JOY Education Association, CEDCA Association, Pro Vitam Welfare Association, Romanian Employers' Confederation, Covasna Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Association - ASIMCOV, Racovița City Hall, the coordinators & volunteer teams of Timișoara 2023, unteatru, Iulius Town, Cărturești, Timiș County Youth Foundation, Noi Re-Creăm Association, Morten Bruun.

Funders

Ministry of European Investments and Projects, EEA and Norway Grants through the Ministry of European Investments and Projects, acting as the National Contact Point