



AMURTEL Romania

NEW FRONTIERS

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

A FEW WORDS FROM DIDI

I am deeply grateful to all of those of you who believe in giving bright futures to children - whether Ukrainian refugees, earthquake victims in Turkey, or Romanian youth recovering from neglect and abuse, or living in disadvantaged rural communities. Your support enabled AMURTEL to undertake some of our most impactful and innovative work yet in 2023.

Our Ukrainian Refugee Response, that began in 2022 immediately following the outbreak of the war, continued in 2023. The "Rays of Light During the Storm" and "Stronger Together" projects funded by CARE-SERA-FONPC, built upon our extensive experience in supporting trauma-affected children with psychological support and practices based on yoga and meditation. Over 6000 individuals received direct assistance through counseling, workshops, trainings, and social cohesion events.

When the earthquake struck Turkey, AMURTEL immediately mobilised a rapid response team and used the expertise gained with refugees to offer psychosocial support to children and other victims.

Meanwhile, back in rural Romania, the SCOP project empowered disadvantaged teens to become active citizens. The Auchan-funded "Scoala din Livada" project saw our organic farm provide fresh produce for children, with volunteers pioneering regenerative agriculture methods and organizing enriching activities in Bucharest and at the farm for school children.

We celebrated 15 years of our Fountain of Hope After School center in Panatau and concluded the project with a celebration of its achievements in the community.

Our AMURTEL Family residential home continues to nurture the growth of its children, thanks to the continued support of Cornelia Fischer Fund that founded it, and to the involvement of so many new donors and sponsors! The annual Outward Bound expedition fostered problem-solving skills, while trips to the seaside and summer camps at our farm created cherished memories. With your generous support, we also installed solar panels to reduce energy costs and renovated the kitchen.

As we look to the future, I am inspired by your support that is increasing the resilience and potential of the children we serve. With your strong partnership, AMURTEL will continue to create brighter tomorrows for vulnerable children in Romania!

Didi Ananda Devapriya
President





THE THE AMURTEL FAMILY'S HOUSE NOW HAS A NEW AND FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN

Thanks to your generosity, our kitchen renovation project is now complete, providing a suitable and welcoming space where we can prepare nutritious meals for children.

Our renovated kitchen allows not only meal preparation, but also moments together as a family.

We said goodbye to the broken and run-down cupboards as they were replaced with modern alternatives, breathing new life into the heart of our home.

A real succes, above expectations

The transformation didn't stop at the cabinets and tiles! Because we raised almost double the original target. for the first time in the Center's history, a dishwasher was installed, making the team's daily work easier, along with a new refrigerator and stove.

All this was possible thanks to your support, the benevolent contribution of **Leroy Merlin Romania** and the selfless dedication of **our volunteer, Ashok from Estonia**.





CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME

In 2023 we managed to complete a project of great importance for our AMURTEL Family Residential Center: **we installed the much-needed solar panels for the house.**

What this extraordinary achievement you contributed to means:

- the certainty that the 12 children in our care have electricity and heating, regardless of the fluctuations and unpredictability of the energy market
- lower energy costs which allows us to allocate more funds to other important projects for the children
- caring for the environment and at the same time encouraging our children to be nature lovers and responsible consumers in the future



AMURTEL ROMANIA PROVIDED IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY IN FEBRUARY 2023

Thanks to your numerous donations, AMURTEL Romania has provided help to survivors by supporting doctors with medical supplies, training psychologists in trauma response, and caring for innocent children whose childhoods were suddenly cut short. As in the case of the response for Ukraine, the AMURTEL team had **Melinda Endrefy, our emergency psychologist**, by their side.

Among the most notable achievements, the team with volunteers from Turkey, Italy and Romania managed to: distribute tents, winter sleeping bags, underwear, blankets, hygiene items, winter socks and clothing. Also, 350 children received toys, coloring books and colored pencils.

Five medical clinics were stocked with medicines and furnished with sofa beds for doctors. In addition, 32 psychologists received a one-day training in Emergency Psychology, Self-Care and PSEA (Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse).





AFTER 16 YEARS, THE "FOUNTAIN OF HOPE" DAYCARE CENTER IN PĂNĂTĂU SERVED THE LAST MEAL FOR 50 CHILDREN, PARENTS AND FRIENDS

16 years ago, AMURTEL Romania opened the "Fountain of Hope" After School Center. During this period, **more than 100 children received warm and nutritious meals, homework support and access to numerous creative and innovative activities**, which they received with great joy and eagerness to learn. Unfortunately, the building was no longer available, so **the center had to close**, but before doing so, it wanted to bring together everyone who made this magical oasis for children possible in Panatau.

On September 15, the center served its last meal as 50 children, parents, teachers, partners, volunteers, current and former team members and sponsors gathered to celebrate together all the achievements they have realized as a community.





WE FINALIZED THE FIRST EDITION OF “THE ORCHARD SCHOOL” PROJECT ALONGSIDE THE MARTISOR COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The first edition of "The Orchard School - we work with Nature!" lasted from May 2022 until the end of 2023 and was an educational and practical initiative, dedicated to HEALTHY AND ACCESSIBLE FOOD THAT DEVELOPS SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, supported by Auchan Foundation and implemented by the Martisor Community Orchard in partnership with AMURTEL Romania and Auchan RETAIL Romania. The National Museum of Romanian Literature and the Faculty of Horticulture Bucharest were among the partners of the project.

The project created a bridge between 2 communities: the urban Bucharest (especially the Martisor Community Orchard in sector 4) and rural Buzau (especially the community on the Buzau River valley, Poieni - Panatau). Throughout the duration of the project, we supported the regeneration of the orchard located in the space of the "Tudor Arghezi - Martisor" Memorial House museum in Bucharest and the social vegetable farm - the AMURTEL Social Garden Poieni in Buzau County. The project combined practical, educational and transformational activities on a personal level.

The results in numbers:

- Over 9800 kg of organic vegetables and fruits that fed the 2 communities
- 30 public events, 1342 adults and children educated
- 2,800 kg of vegetable waste were redirected from landfills and transformed into approximately 1,350 kilograms of finished compost that regenerated the soil of the gardens in Bucharest
- 2 new community gardens with edible species equipped with composting stations.



3 EVENTS

"RAYS OF LIGHT DURING THE STORM": INTERPRETATION SHOWS OF THERAPEUTIC STORIES WRITTEN BY UKRAINIAN REFUGEE WOMEN IN ROMANIA

In April 2023, 20 Ukrainian mothers, psychologists and teachers working with refugees took part in a storytelling therapy workshop, led by Australian writer Susan Perrow and organized by AMURTEL Romania. During the event they created **a collection of their own therapeutic stories to be able to give meaning, hope and light to their personal journey and the journeys of many other Ukrainians.**

These stories were artistically interpreted by Romanian actors and narrated in Ukrainian in 3 different performances - one in July 2023 in Bucharest and 2 in November 2023 in Bucharest and Brasov - **to bring Romanians and Ukrainians closer, connecting them through the universal languages of symbolism and art.**

Some of the stories are translated and accessible for download in Romanian, English and Ukrainian and can be found on the [dedicated website](#).

The shows were organized by AMURTEL Romania in partnership with the Mihai Viteazu National College, the Association of Little Big Emotions and the Brasov Philharmonic, while the whole project was financed by **CARE-SERA-FONPC**.



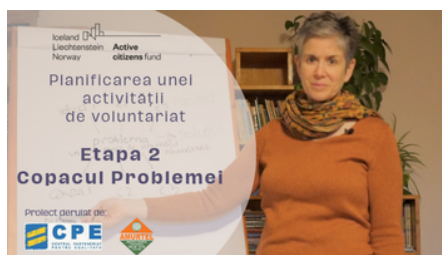
WE FINALIZED THE SCOP PROJECT: SOLIDARITY IN THE COMMUNITY = STRONGER PEOPLE

SCOP was a civic education program addressed to teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 from small urban communities (under 30,000 inhabitants) in the counties of Buzau, Calarasi, Dambovit, Giurgiu and Teleorman.

The project aimed for young people to be more involved in their own community, aware of their role in changing the community for the better, of their rights as citizens and with an increased capacity to critically use mass media products and to know and use the local community resources.

“SCOP: Solidarity in Community = Stronger People” project was implemented by **CPE - Partnership Center for Equality**, in partnership with AMURTEL Romania, between May 2021 and May 2023.

Didi created a series of videos and educational materials for this project.

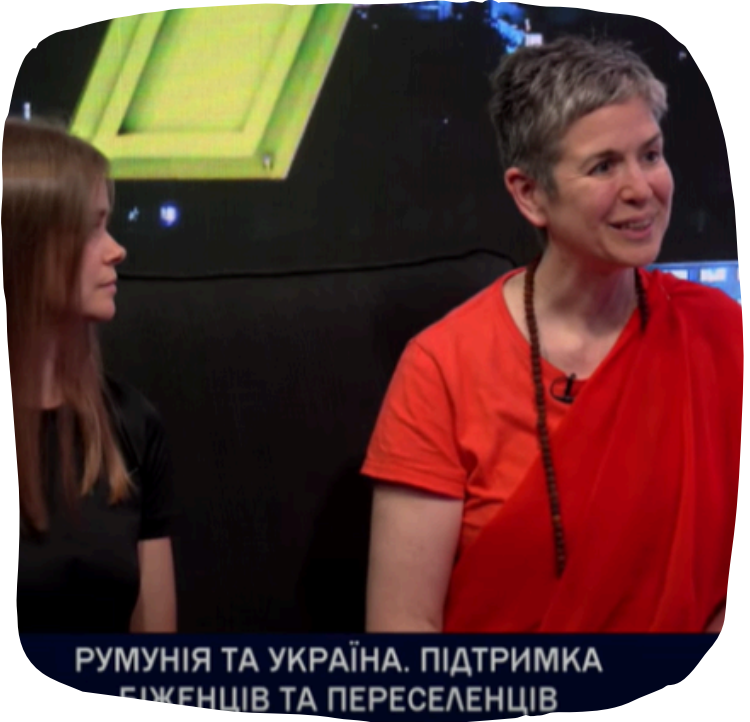


ODESSA RESILIENCY TOT TRAINING (TRAINING FOR TRAINERS)

In August 2023, your support funded a **workshop in Odessa, attended by 18 people working in local Ukrainian organizations**, including a few associated with AMURT Ukraine. The two-day training was designed to empower them to lead similar workshops with parents in Ukraine.

Didi and Gunaratna were also interviewed about the workshop on local TV, reaching even more people with Neohumanist messages.

Gunaratna also returned to Ukraine in September and delivered **resiliency workshops to about 35 people total in Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia and Odessa.**



TRAINING OF 15 MASTER TEACHER TRAINERS IN CHERNIVSTI

Didi A. Devapriya and Gunaratna then returned to Chernivsti Ukraine in November, and delivered a **2-day training to the Lego Foundation's 15 master trainers that give teacher training through the Ukrainian Ministry of Education throughout the country.** The training focused on how to incorporate similar resiliency-building techniques inspired by yoga practices and wisdom into the classroom.



MHPSS (MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT) GUIDEBOOK DISTRIBUTED

Didi A. Devapriya also wrote an MHPSS guidebook which was translated by Gunaratna into Ukrainian as a support material for the courses. She is currently writing a similar one for teacher training as well.

Copies were printed and distributed to the participants in the training. The LFTs also created a Telegram channel and made videos from the training to help participants retain the different exercises demonstrated during the training.



INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2023 BROUGHT UKRAINIANS AND ROMANIANS TOGETHER

On June 21, on the occasion of the **International Day of Yoga**, AMURTEL Romania, in partnership with the Embassy of India in Bucharest, Meditation Steps Romania and Hitesh Bhatt brought together Ukrainians and Romanians to experience the soothing and uplifting practices of yoga, pranayama, mantra music and meditation at the Seeds for Happiness Center.

The event was supported by the "Rays of Light After the Storm" project funded by **CARE-SERA-FONPC**.



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VICTORUPESI: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

VICTORUPESI is an occupational innovation project that uses technology to develop new pathways for employability and social inclusion for target groups that for various reasons are far away from the labor market.

The project is a collaboration between IKF Malmö - Internationella Kvinnoföreningen - Sweden, Amurtel Romania & Biblioteca Județeană "Panait Istrati" Braila - Romania, Fetico C&A Spain, OZARA Project Management Office- Slovenia, Edufons - Centar za celoživotno obrazovanje - Serbia and BES Cooperativa Sociale - bes4work - Italy and is funded by **the European Commission**.

The project produced the following resources: a digital toolkit and one for diversity management, a methodological guide, guidelines for sustainability, a report on existing practices and training.



ERASMUS+ EXPERIENCES IN 2023 IN THE WONDERFUL ANANDA KALYANI REGENERATIVE COMMUNITY



In 2023, AMURTEL Romania participated in **two Erasmus+ experiences** that will help our social garden in the transition to a regenerative model of fruit and vegetable production, education and community: Connecting Experiences, June 2023 and Footprints, July-August 2023.

Thanks to our **Ananda Kalyani partners in Portugal!**



THANKS TO YOU, THE AMURTEL FAMILY'S CHILDREN HAD ANOTHER MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE SEASIDE

One of the children's biggest wishes for the summer vacation has come true in 2023!

Your involvement and desire to give them joy brought them to the seaside for a memorable vacation that they talked about all year.

LESSONS FOR A LIFETIME IN THE OUTWARD BOUND ADVENTURE

In the last week of August, the teenagers from the AMURTEL Family ventured with Didi and **our long-term partners from Outward Bound Romania** in the wilderness of the Carpathian mountains.

This journey creates memories for a lifetime, builds character and a valuable skill set such as problem solving, cooperation, taking responsibility as well as overcoming challenges. This experience is life changing for our vulnerable children who need confidence and motivation to thrive.





IN JUNE WE MET AGAIN AT PLAY DAY, AT THE AMURTEL FAMILY'S HOME

For one more time in 2023 we had the joy of organizing a Play Day both offline, at our home, and online for those who couldn't make it. Thus, we were joined by our supporters from Romania and abroad for a day full of activities with the children, in Panatau. Thank you all for attending!

THE PARTNERSHIP AND VISIT TO THE GEORGE ENESCU FESTIVAL

For the first time in 2023, ARTEXIM, the organizer of the Festival, created a partnership with the organizations Special Olympics, the Motivation Foundation and AMURTEL, which offered **consulting services and support for the access of people with disabilities to the concert spaces** for their participation in the concerts and actions of the George International Festival Enescu.

Thanks to the partnership, our children were also at the Festival for the first time. What a wonderful opportunity for them to discover classical music!



THE AMURTEL FAMILY'S CHILDREN AND THE VEGETABLES FROM OUR SOCIAL GARDEN: PRESENT AT THE SLOW FOOD BUZAU EVENT

An event organized by the Slow Food organization that brings together **farmers, food producers, agritourism guesthouses, restaurants and lovers of healthy and sustainable food.**



ACCOMMODATION AT OUR GARDEN: NOW ON BOOKING

The house near the **AMURTEL Social Garden in Poieni**, a traditional rustic house with 2 bedrooms, shared bathroom and kitchen, has been renovated and added on [Booking](#).

This is added as an accommodation option to the **Bucur Obor House**, right near our **Residential Center in Panatau**, a rustic village house, also recently renovated, with 3 bedrooms, shared bathroom and kitchen.

We welcome you to visit us at one of the 2 options! Your visits here contribute to supporting the AMURTEL Family.





WE CELEBRATED THE HARVEST DAY AT AMURTEL'S SOCIAL GARDEN IN POIENI

At the end of October, we celebrated the Harvest Day together with the Martisor Community Orchard and the Orchard School - we work with Nature! project.

The 40 participants got to meet our children that benefit from the vegetables from the Garden, picked the last fruits of autumn, made "must" and enjoyed together a delicious vegan lunch prepared in a cauldron by the skilled cooks from the community.

THE CHILDREN MET YOU AT CLUB DAIMON IN BUCHAREST

For the third year in a row, in December, our friends from the **Rotary Club** organized an event at the Daimon Club in Bucharest, with the aim of supporting the AMURTEL Family and to give the opportunity to those of you already involved in the project and potential new supporters to meet the children.

At the event, the children sang Christmas carols and shared a video that expressed in their own words what they remembered most in the past year.





THE SECOND YEAR FOR THE "CAROLS EXCHANGE" EVENT: 2 SHOWS IN BUCHAREST AND BRASOV BRINGING OVER 500 ROMANIANS AND UKRAINIANS TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The second edition of the "Carols Exchange" social project for Romanian and Ukrainian carols is part of the "Stronger Together" project held by AMURTEL Romania, financed by **CARE-SERA-FONPC** and carried out in partnership with ARTEXIM, the National University of Music Bucharest and the Brasov Philharmonic. The aim of the project was to facilitate **the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the Romanian society through a carols concert that would bring joy and the atmosphere of the winter holidays.**

In total, **the concerts reached over 500 people** and were covered by the nation-wide Antena 3 CNN TV channel and the local RTT Brasov.

Not just a typical concert, but an opportunity to bring two communities together at a difficult time

This was not a typical concert, but rather an opportunity for all who joined in to sing together to participate in a sing-a-long. This event was intended to be a beautiful way to experience and enjoy the unity and solidarity of two nations that have come even closer together during this trying time. It was also a way for Romania to welcome Ukrainians and other foreigners to our country and culture while appreciating the cultural heritage they brought with them.



THE END OF THE “STRONGER TOGETHER” PROJECT, FINANCED BY CARE-SERA-FONPC: SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION AND MHPSS RESILIENCY OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

In the context of the tumultuous refugee crisis in Ukraine, in 2022 the AMURTEL team coordinated a project with a determined goal: to face the complex challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees who are in the process of integration in Romania, with an emphasis on mental health and psychosocial support.

Immediately after the outbreak of the conflict and after the refugees started to cross the border, the AMURTEL team kicked off a large-scale project that included 3 phases - **the last phase took place between August 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024.**

This initiative included **individual and group counseling, educational workshops, therapeutic storytelling sessions and community events, including those described in the previous pages, which encouraged greater understanding and friendship between Romanians and Ukrainians, all meticulously tailored to the refugee community's needs.**

The project facilitated individual and group sessions, led by experienced psychologists and mental health professionals, providing a safe environment for emotional expression and building resilience. Recognizing the essential roles of educators and parents, through specialized training sessions **they received the necessary tools to psychologically support refugee children.**

HOW YOUR DONATIONS WERE UTILIZED IN 2023

INCOME	euro
Total donations from organizations	107,727
CORNELIA FISCHER HILFSFONDS Panatau C	55,208
AMURTEL Organisation	10,977
Amurtel USA	10,487
Other International Donor Organizations	27,037
Romanian Donor Organizations	4,018
Total from Individual Donors	7,141
Total State Subsidies	83,448
Children allowances	38,221
Redirection of Income Taxes	3,153
Other subsidies	40,756
APIA	1,318
Foundation Auchan Romania	31,026
Other Corporate Sponsors	28,047
In-kind Donations (Food Bank)	13,598
Other organizational income generation	30,469
Other projects	10,039
Total Grants for Ukrainian Refugee Response	238,805
CARE-FONPC-SERA Romania Foundation	173,872
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	64,933
Other financial income	5,268
TOTAL INCOME	583,751

EXPENSES	euro
Total Expenditure on Social Programmes	329,163
Familia AMURTEL children's home	257,791
Fountain of Hope After School Center	27,318
Vistara Social Apartment and House	1,435
AMURTEL Bio Garden	11,532
Romania	31,026
Total Administrative Costs	7,302
Total Expenditure on Ukrainian Refugees Response	238,805
"Stronger Together" Rounds 2&3 of Ukraine Response CARE-SERA-FONPC	173,872
Site Management Support and Community Based Response (NRC)	64,933
Other financial expenses	7,482
TOTAL EXPENSES	582,751
Romania Foundation	24,454

THANK YOU!



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