

# VISIT REPORT FVC/Garla Mare

## **General Information:**

Name reporter:	Anna Samwel
Travelled WECF members:	No
Organization/persons visited:	FVC, vrata
Dates of visit:	23.05- 29.05
Concerning project(s):	FE, Roma
Purpose of the visit:	simpozion
Villages / project sites visited:	Garla Mare, Vrata
Date Report Submitted:	30.05.2008

## **Summary / Conclusions:**

The Vrata project is not yet running so well and Angela needs support. That it is not running so well is because of the elections and there were and are some unclarities.

The Rroma project is going well, though some more structure is needed, that will come over time.

The alphabetization course is agreed on and ready to start.

## **Project progress:**

Almost all the project money is spend. The money left over might be used for buying a 'tuinslang' (fortun) for watering the school gardens. Another option is a digital photo camera.

FVC's internet connection is functioning.

Builders who will participate in Albs training in Vrata have not been selected. Neither has an initiative group been established, nor beneficiaries selected that will get a toilet. For selecting the builders, we have agreed that they will not be told that they will receive 50 Euro, in order to ensure their intrinsic motivation to learn to build eco-toilets. Ionut, Angela's son is not interested in becoming a builder.

**Vrata:** The project is not proceeding, because there are elections. The mayor asked for a 'ready project', i.e. a plan of a toilet, in order to 'do the project' at the authorities. Their engineers never saw such a toilet, and don't know what to do with it. Olivia will ask Thierry for such a sceme and send it to Angela.

**Demonstration garden:** The director and Angela agreed to do the demonstration garden around the toilet, within the guard. The condition is that the kids don't get into contact with the urine. Angela and Delia will do the gardening work after the renovation of the toilet. Mainly flowers will be planted. Angela agreed to prepare some pots with vegetables to demonstrate the effect of urine.

**Symposium:** There were about 20 people present, but many more had inscribed themselves, paid the fee of 30 RON and will receive the certificate of participation. This is apparently the way to do it nowadays.

The program started with a 'fashion show' of children in dresses made of waste materials. After that I had my presentation. The next and last presentation was from Vera, Nadia Andreevs sister from the project community in Bolduresti. She had prepared an interesting presentation about Wisdoms activities on ecosan sphere. The symposium ended with a meal for everybody.

I prepared material on experiments with solar energy that could be done by school children. It was unfortunately not printed or used. I could probably awaken some interest with my presentation on solar energy. (see annex)

Angela could re-fund the costs, and has money left to sustain her activities with 'eco-scoala', a

project for which she has to pay for participation.

**Other issues:**

The hidrofor from the dispensar is not functioning for several months. The connection is shared with the primarie and the library. Vladulescu doesn't agree to pay the electricity for the townhall. This is probably a reason why no action has been taken. Mokanu agrees to pay electricity for them, because they have the building for free. (and they are in the same party...). Because there is no communication between the cabinets, Mokanu didn't know where the pump is. It appeared to be in the well. Her husband will repair it, and after the elections an agreement with the town hall will be made about payment of the electricity bill.

They have taken water on their own cost to the cabinets. They also have a water toilet.

The water filters for the schools are not connected. The director is in favor of connecting them. Ilie didn't agree to connect them when Angela asked him to, because the wash basin needs to be broken. After the elections things will be settled. The filters are with Angela and need to be regenerated.

**Rromi:** Mihaela had about 4 sessions with the girls. She couldn't meet them more often, because she had exams for gymnasium and did her driving license. The girls and Mihaela like it and want to continue, though she can not guarantee that they do it in every week. Mihaela is spending very little money on the cooking course, around 5 Euro per session. She puts sometimes her own money. She promised not to do that anymore. She will also pay the host for the gas. There participate around 6-8 girls, 10-15 children and one older lady who was present the first time and who seems to like it. They have been talking about anti-conception, child care and other women issues. Mihaela tells that the girls open up.

Constraints are that there is no oven, only little space and little attributes.

Mihaela is buying and preparing for Primavara food for 20 Euro's a months. It is not enough for everyday, but she and her three children have to eat regularly.

I left Mihaela another 500RON to continue the activities.

**Alphabetization:** Several young women seem motivated for the course. Last time I was in Garla Mare, it was decided that we would apply for 'second chance' through the inspectorate. This program enables the participants to get school certificates, to do more classes.

For classes 5-8 the program has been started. Unfortunately, the participants are not coming anymore. The problem is, that they have to come very often. And they have to participate the full 4 years, also if they have 7 classes and want to have the 8<sup>th</sup>.

For this reason, the school director doesn't agree anymore to organize 'second chance' for classes 1-4. Also Dancu, the school mediator from the Roma community expressed that he is not in favor of organizing it officially. Mihaela said that the girls are not interested in getting a diploma, they just want to read and write. A part of the girls have around 5 or 6 classes, but are not able to read.

Angela was in favor of organizing 'second chance', but agreed in the end to do an informal alphabetization course. They will start as soon as the holidays started, and both are less busy.

Mihaela proposed to combine the course with the cooking course. The problem would be that there is no gas, so only cold dishes can be prepared.

If the course is going well, the participants keep on coming and they are interested in a diploma, an application will be made for 'second chance'

**Agreements:**

Agree on what the left over money will be spend and communicate to Angela.

Make sure the water filters will be installed.

Send a 'ready project' of an ecosan toilet to the mayor of Vrata via Angela

Continue with cooking course, start with alphabetization soon.

**Additional Information (Opportunities):**

I propose to invite also Mihaela to the facilitation course in July. She has very good listening skills and truly wants to help. She suggests by herself to consult with the beneficiaries. She has potential to become a good facilitator.

**Comments**

Angela needs a lot of support, especially in Vrata. She is not yet feeling full ownership over the project.