



ateliere
fără frontiere
| Groupesos |

Annual report 2021



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Ateliere Fără Frontiere is a member of:



14 years for people, education and the environment

For 14 years, we have put people, education and care for the environment at the core of our business and projects, and we offer equal opportunities for the future for people in difficulty. These are characteristic words that define social enterprises, whose purpose is always a social one, while respecting the principles of the social economy.

And, because at Ateliere Fără Frontiere we always act for social purposes and because all the activities that we organise serve the vulnerable communities we work with, in 2021 we obtained the certificate of social enterprise.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interconnected global goals designed to eradicate extreme poverty, combat inequality and injustice and protect the planet by 2030. Within Ateliere Fără Frontiere we contribute to the fulfilment of 8 of the Global Objectives:



We help disadvantaged communities by providing the join our workshops in which we promote circular economy and care for the environment.

The global COVID-19 pandemic did not make our work within the association easier. We spent countless hours trying to find the safest ways to continue to support adults coming from vulnerable groups, to continue the collecting and refurbishment of IT equipment that we donate to schools from rural areas and to continue to deliver vegetable baskets from our organic farm.

It took a lot of work in a determined team to find a strategy that will help us recover from the crisis that was caused by the first year of the pandemic and adapt to the uncertain situation that has emerged around the year 2021.

The national unemployment rate has risen alarmingly because of the pandemic, and with it, and the vulnerabilities felt in the disadvantaged communities (health problems, abandonment school violence, cases of domestic violence). So the entire Ateliere Fără Frontiere team mobilised in these difficult conditions to continue the activity and avoid the closing of production in the workshops, at times when the participants in our insertion program needed certainty, more than ever.



We have reconfigured the workshop spaces so that we could work in an appropriate environment, we implemented safety measures at all levels in our workshops, we alternated the work schedule, we digitised some of the activities and we continued to provide moral support and guidance during counselling meetings to our beneficiaries.

In 2021, according to Eurostat data, 35.7% of the Romanian population continued to be exposed to the risk of poverty or exclusion and through the social inclusion program which we carry out within the Ateliere Fără Frontiere Association we hired 31 people last year who came from disadvantaged backgrounds.

At the national level, without a complex insertion program through economic activity, integration of disadvantaged people in community and the labour market is almost impossible.

Most adults in vulnerable groups who come to us need support and easy access to:



housing



health services



addiction treatment



justice



autonomy and self-esteem



**family obstacles
(including situations of violence)**



independent living skills



professional life skills



mobility / accessibility



education / training



qualification and professional project



Social services and social benefits liabilities (allowances, aid) existing in Romania offer only stabilisation to people in difficulty and create addiction. Without any special integration services that combine the system of passive and accompanying socio-professional assistance for insertion, vulnerable people remain excluded from society.

From 2008 until now, Ateliere Fără Frontiere employed 254 vulnerable people in the socio-professional insertion program.

Through this program we offer a stable work place in one of the 3 circular workshops and personalised social support services, counselling for insertion and pedagogical accompaniment for training professional, educational and social skills among disadvantaged people.

At the end of this insertion program we offer support in finding a secure job in the conventional labour market or in authorised sheltered units.

To certify our activity at Ateliere Fără Frontiere we registered in 2021 as a social enterprise.



14 years full of opportunities for adults

The participants in our social insertion program on the labour market are referred by the over 40 organisations and institutions in Bucharest and Ilfov County that provide social services to vulnerable individuals and with which we have been actively collaborating since 2008.

In 2021, the collaboration between social NGOs was crucial, so together with organisations and social institutions, we organised sessions in which we discussed solutions through which we can improve local policies that can support vulnerable adults in the context of the current pandemic. The need for mutual support from social NGOs, but also from public institutions and private organisations were the solutions that we needed to overcome most given the difficult situation we were in.

Through the program "REinsert - a second chance for the disadvantaged, part of the solution to the crisis in the labour market" we organised in 2021 working visits and mentoring meetings with the Alstom team. Participants in our insertion program visited the periodic revision workshops, cleaning and daily overhaul of the subway cars on the route and they understood the importance of complying with labour safety rules and have discovered the demands of the labour market directly from a potential future employer.

We made the booklet "Models of good practices in the social economy and social insertion enterprises from Romania", the first material that refers to the challenges of the social economy from national level and describes the activities, organisations and enterprises that successfully integrate vulnerable people on the labour market for over 10 years in Romania.

Through the projects we carry out, the participants in the insertion program continue to offer a helping hand to those who need it, so in 2021 we organised a "solidarity site" and we supported the renovation of the Carousel Association's Community Centre for the Homeless, involving us in the general cleanliness of their premises. Beneficiaries also showed empathy cooperating with their team leaders and insertion counsellors for a noble cause.

To fulfil our mission, the insertion program for vulnerable people is carried out in the 3 workshops through which we promote a circular, solidarity and sustainable economy:



educlick

we collect, dismantle and refurbish IT equipment that we donate to schools, libraries, museums and other social institutions



remesh

we collect, clean and transform the advertising campaigns banners into unique sustainable, handmade products



bio&co

we produce bio certified vegetables that we deliver on a weekly subscription basis

Ateliere Fără Frontiere is member in the Groupe SOS, an associative group, leader in social entrepreneurship in Europe that brings together 650 associations, establishments and services, which fight, act and innovate for the benefit of people in vulnerable situations, future generations and the territories.



14 years in which we have reduced the amount of electrical and electronic equipment waste and we have offered opportunities for a digitalised education in rural schools

The educlick workshop is the platform through which we collect WEEE (electrical and electronic equipment waste), we repair the computers and we donate them to schools and other non-governmental organisations and social institutions from the most disadvantaged backgrounds in the country.

We are the only authorised collector of electrical and electronic waste in Romania that can reuse what we collect in a sustainable manner, respecting the achievement of national environmental objectives in this domain.



2021 IN NUMBERS



206 tons
of WEEE collected



144 tons
of recycled WEEE



62 tons
of reused WEEE



2,181,228 kg
of CO₂ avoided by WEEE collection and reconditioning them

We calculate the environmental impact of the companies that hand over their WEEE to us and we contribute to their non-financial and sustainability report.

In 2021, most of the school courses were online, so we saw an increase in demand for computers nationwide. The program # DămClickPeRomânia, developed in 2021 with the support of Kaufland Romania and OMV Petrom, came in support of schools in rural areas that had limited access to the online environment, due to the lack of high-performance IT equipment.



3,777
of reconditioned
computers were donated



251
of schools and
institutions received
reconditioned computers



34,014
of beneficiary students
received reconditioned
computers

In 14 years we donated 22,394 refurbished computers and digitalised 10% of the schools in Romania.

At AFF, electrical and electronic waste has a high degree of reuse with a zero impact on environment through the process of collecting, testing, sorting, cleaning, repairing, resofting and packaging of the IT equipment that arrive on the benches of the Romanian students. educlick promotes the importance of reusing for environmental impact and constantly encourages this in public space to avoid CO2 emissions.

AWARDS



Educlick won the Excellence in Circular Economy Award at the Green Gala Report - 12th Hour edition



Educlick won second place at the Education for sustainable development Award, Sustainability in Business Gala, organised by The Diplomat-Bucharest



Educlick received the Green Medal award, on Europa FM - Green Mission

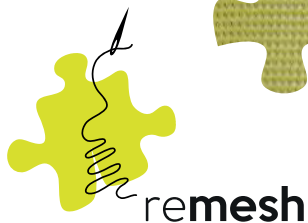


Educlick was among the 10 finalists in the Green Transition category - the only entities from the European social economy in Eastern Europe.



Educlick received the third place at the #CivilSocietyPrize awards, organised by EESC - European Economic and Social Committee dedicated to combating climate change.





We reduce the amount of advertising waste and social inequalities

remesh is the workshop where we support people with disabilities who are part of vulnerable groups, mostly women, mothers with several children and a very difficult past. Also, remesh is where we turn advertising waste into sustainable products.

remesh was registered as an Authorised Sheltered Unit and in this approach the Ateliere Fără Frontiere Association established SC Eco Atelierul Social SRL.



2021 IN NUMBERS



1.000^{kg}
of advertising
waste collected



2.000^{kg}
of advertising waste
was transformed into
sustainable products



5.589
of stitched
products

AWARDS



remesh received a Nomination for Excellence in Environmental Innovation with the remesh workshop in during the Green Report Gala - 12th Hour



We promote a healthy lifestyle and environmentally responsible

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us more alert and wary when it comes to our health and the health of those around us, and adopting a healthier, friendlier lifestyle with the environment has become a priority for many people.

At the bio & co farm in Ciocănari village, Dâmbovița county, we cultivate care for the environment and people and we promote urban agriculture and local production of healthy, responsibly grown food.

Our certified organic vegetables, harvested responsibly and distributed in a short, direct circuit to subscribers, in a weekly baskets, were the first step towards a healthier lifestyle for many people, and the fact that we were able to contribute to the overall well-being of the community in Bucharest and Ilfov County motivated us to develop this workshop more.



2021 IN NUMBERS



4,507
vegetable baskets
delivered



100
sorts of
vegetables



90
on average,
weekly subscribers



4,000m²
solariums



3,23^{ha}
certified organic land



17
bee hives

In 2021 we celebrated for the first time the Sustainable Harvest Day on the farm, together with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, the Embassy of France and the local town hall, but also members of the community from the village of Ciocănari.

With the support of the Association Française d'Agriculture Urbaine Professionnelle we organised visits to the cities of Nantes and Rennes for the Romanian mayors of urban agriculture projects in order for them to discover some green urban transformations that would inspire Romanian cities.

We organised, with the support of the French Embassy in Romania and the French Institute in Romania, an online event on urban agriculture and how this topic can become a goal, a lever and an essential stake for sustainable cities.

AWARDS



Bio & co farm received the award for Excellence in Agri-Food for the social farm bio & co within Green Report Gala - 12th Hour



Bio&Co farm received the Green Medal award, on Europa FM - Green Mission

2021 financial results

	2021 revenue
Economic activity	1.967.715
Sponsorships	2.188.578
Public projects	313.529
Subsidies (social, farm)	23.361
Total resources	4.493.183

	2021 expenses
Human resources	2.554.869
Rent, utilities	188.024
Administrative and operation	205.817
Communication	99.261
Other expenses	826.583
Depreciation of assets	137.762
Total expenses	4.012.316





14 years in which we collaborate for an inclusive and sustainable future

Through the 4 publicly financed projects that we started in 2021 with the support of our European partners, we develop the methodology of socio-professional insertion and create new educational platforms dedicated to increasing the capacity of vulnerable.

In this way, we are aware of the successful practices of insertion on the labour market at European level and the latest information in the European social economy domain. As a founding member and leader within the association RISE Romania - Network of Social Insertion Enterprises, with which we collaborate in many of these projects, we aim to develop public policies and legislation to help the social insertion sector evolve.



At European level, the role of these companies continue to grow under the first European Commission on Social Economy Plan launched at the end of 2021 by the European Commission. Thanks to the collaboration between Ateliere Fără Frontiere, RISE Romania and ENSIE, Romania continues to be an important presence on the European scene of economy and social enterprises. Activities conducted by us are often used as an example of good practice at European level.



Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

Active
citizens fund

Inclusion has Voice - Empowering Vulnerable Groups to Social Inclusion and Innovation

We work together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe

We have started an extensive sociological research through which we analyse the needs of people in vulnerable groups, the extent to which they know and exercise their civil rights and interact with their public and private services.

Based on the research, we supported people in need through delivering labour market information and advisory services and training of essential socio-emotional skills. We have organised a solidarity site and assembled 100 information and counselling sessions. We started the process of organising a series of 5 training modules in the fields such as labour law, unemployment, employment measures, financial education, legal education, housing and other social services, with trainers - external experts. We organised a seminar addressed to organisations and public authorities active in the social field in Bucharest, on the topic of amplifying vulnerable people's issues during the COVID pandemic. We started recurring online consulting sessions with our partner Fretexx Pluss Norway to discover working models existing in social enterprises in Norway.

"Inclusion has Voice - Empowering Vulnerable Groups to Social Inclusion and Innovation" is implemented with financial support of Active Citizens Fund Romania, a program financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

Acquisitions with social and environmental impact

We work together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe

Through the partnership with the Centre for Nonprofit Legislation and Civitas Foundation, we promote among the public authorities the importance of reserved contracts by which companies can contract Authorised Sheltered Units (UPAs) in order to purchase sustainable services and goods. We promote in the private sector ways through which purchases have a low impact on the environment and the social sector. We started research to develop a report on public policies that bring together the latest data impact that public acquisitions have on the environment and the social sector.

The "Acquisitions with social and environmental impact" project is implemented with financial support of Active Citizens Fund Romania, a program financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021.





WISE for Digital Upskilling

We have developed the guide "Integration of vulnerable groups in the labour market through social inclusion enterprises in a sustainable labour market. Introductory material" which shows a radiography of the social enterprises in the countries represented by ENSIE, France, Romania and Spain, and of socio-professional integration programs for vulnerable people. The guide was presented to our social partners and 3 foreign representatives of other European insertion companies in our first multiplication event. We started documenting the second set of teaching materials. This is aimed at job coaches, professionals who work directly and have a pedagogical role in the insertion activity of people from vulnerable groups. Together with the Spanish project partner, Fundació Formació i Treball, we build sets of teaching materials for literacy, arithmetic and basic digital skills in e-learning format.

The RISE Romania project partner launched the platform "Online Observatory of policies and practices for the integration of vulnerable people into the labour market".

WISE for Digital Upskilling is co-financed by the Erasmus + Program, the EU's Education Program, Training, Youth and Sports 2021-2027. Within this project we were among the winners of the Europe in my region 2021 photo contest #EUinmyregion.



Net-Works

With partners: ENSIE, ISEN (Ireland), CDI (North Macedonia), Galileo Progetti (Hungary), A3S Association (Portugal), ASSE (Slovakia) and IDC / SENS (Serbia), we identify the common problems we face and share the knowledge needed to set up new networks of social insertion enterprises. In this project, Ateliere Fără Frontiere coordinates work package 3 through which, together with its Irish partner ISEN, offers know-how on increasing the capacity to build networks of social insertion enterprises. Among these activities is a synthesis of 8 country reports on the social economy and the support of 2 of the 5 mutual learning series with project partners. We held a debate on what it means to work in a network of social enterprises, but also transnational meetings together with all the project partners, in which we exchanged expertise, ideas and good practices.

Net-Works is co-financed by the Erasmus + Program, an EU program for Education, Training, Youth and Sports 2021-2027.

Our sponsors and partners

educlick

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



PARTNERS THAT SUPPORTED OUR SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INSERTION PROJECTS



SUPPORTERS



remesh

STRATEGIC PARTNER



bio&co

STRATEGIC PARTNER





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This material was produced with the financial support of Active Citizens Fund Romania, programme funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021. The content does not necessarily reflect the official position of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021; for more information visit www.eeagrants.org.