

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



30 years of putting people first

Economic and Social Development Association · Curtea de Argeş, Romania

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01 Foreword

A message from the Executive Director



*Thirty years have taught us one simple thing:
a community changes when one person is
given a real chance.*

Anatolie Socolovschi

Executive Director, ADES

In 1992, a farmers' fair in Curtea de Argeş, organised by World Care International, brought together people who shared one ambition: stronger communities. In 1993, the Farmers' Fair Association was born, later to become ADES.

Three decades on, we work with partners from 14 European countries and have recorded more than 20,000 training participations.

From a local initiative to opportunities that cross borders.

Every result has a face: the person who gains a qualification, the woman who opens her own business, the adult who learns to recognise disinformation, the members of Roma communities who learn a trade.

In 2025 we continued the European journey we began in 2017. We launched EM&M, the sixth Erasmus+ partnership coordinated by ADES, on emotional intelligence and digital safety; we won E-WEAVE, in vocational training; and we carried forward 4equality, for young women who overcome stereotypes. Our income grew by 11.6%, and the year closed with a surplus.

Next step: new initiatives in inclusion and intercultural mediation.

I thank our members, trainers, volunteers, partners and funders who give meaning to this story. I invite you to discover in this report our projects and our free educational resources, available through the QR codes.

Anatolie Socolovschi

Executive Director and Legal Representative

02 About ADES

From Argeş, for Romania and Europe

From Curtea de Argeş, we build opportunities for people and communities. We are a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organisation dedicated to fair access to education, work and participation in decision-making.

Where opportunities are slow to arrive, we step in first: alongside the long-term unemployed, vulnerable women, Roma people, young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) and adults from isolated villages. Roughly one in five participants comes from these groups.

OUR VISION

Vibrant, self-reliant communities in which every person has a real chance to thrive, through fair access to resources, education and economic opportunities.

OUR MISSION

To bring positive change to the socio-economic development of Romanian communities, in a professional, ethical and responsible way.

What guides us

Professionalism	Ethics and responsibility	Empathy and respect
Collaboration	Innovation and adaptability	Transparency

We believe in lifelong learning. That is why we invest in the people we work with and in our own capacity to grow.

What we do

Adult education

Courses, guides, platforms and apps for basic, digital and emotional skills.

Vocational training

Accredited courses for qualification, requalification and upskilling.

Employment and entrepreneurship

Counselling, job mediation, courses and support for starting a business.

Community development

Local strategies and partnerships between authorities, NGOs and businesses.

Inclusion

Programmes for Roma people, women, NEET youth and rural adults.

Support for NGOs

Management, strategic planning and fundraising.

Our story

In 1992, a farmers' fair brought together ideas, people and real needs. A year later, the Farmers' Fair Association (Asociația Târgul Fermierilor) was born: 23 founders who wanted to bring suitable technology and solutions to small and medium-sized farms in Argeș. The association gained legal status in 1995, by court ruling no. 19/PJ of 1 June, and was entered in the register on 13 June under no. 24/PJ.



We soon broadened our mission: from 1996 we supported unemployed people through a Phare-funded mediation and training centre, and from 1997, together with the Romanian-Swiss Foundation for Entrepreneurship (FREE), we offered courses based on a curriculum developed by the University of Neuchâtel. Since 21 June 1999 we have carried the name Economic and Social Development Association (Asociația de Dezvoltare Economico-Socială).





ADES alongside non-governmental organisations from Argeş, November 2007

In 2000–2001 we set up three centres dedicated to community development, citizen information and human resources. These were followed by 11 Phare projects, interventions funded by the European Social Fund and, from 2017, a new chapter: Erasmus+ partnerships coordinated and implemented together with European organisations.



ADES institutional capacity-building seminar

Milestones

1993	The Farmers' Fair Association is born
1995	Legal establishment (ruling no. 19/PJ) and entry in the Register, no. 24/PJ
1996–1997	The first centre for unemployed people and the first entrepreneurship courses
1999	We become ADES – the Economic and Social Development Association
2000–2001	Three centres for the community, citizens and human resources
2004–2009	11 Phare employment and training projects in Argeş, Alba and Mureş
2009–2020	ESF projects for crafts, women's entrepreneurship and start-ups
2017	The first Erasmus+ partnership coordinated by ADES: DECENT
2022	CRESC, through the Active Citizens Fund
2025	EM&M, the sixth Erasmus+ partnership coordinated by ADES

03 ADES in numbers

Three decades at a glance

From 1995 to the end of 2025, the numbers show how far a local initiative has come.

30

years of activity

35+

projects implemented

20,000+

learners trained

891

courses organised

€11 million

total project budget

€1.5 million

managed directly by ADES

60+

new businesses

14

European partner countries

Where do the more than 20,000 learners come from?

19,905 people took part in the 891 courses organised by ADES between 1995 and 2023, and 19,529 of them completed them. They are joined by 717 learners from projects funded by the European Social Fund after 2009.

04 The year 2025

New projects, new partners

Three European partnerships set the pace of 2025: a combined budget of EUR 560,000, of which EUR 97,060 is allocated to ADES over the lifetime of the projects.



scan

EM&M – Emotional intelligence and cybersecurity for young people

2025–2027 · Erasmus+ KA220-YOU · Coordinator

A handbook for youth workers, stories about emotional intelligence and short microlearning lessons, in 7 languages.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 250,000 / EUR 43,840



scan

4equality – Equal opportunities for young women

2024–2026 · Erasmus+ KA220-YOU · Partner

E-mentoring and e-training for young women interested in business and STEM, plus tools that help youth workers recognise gender bias.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 250,000 / EUR 35,320



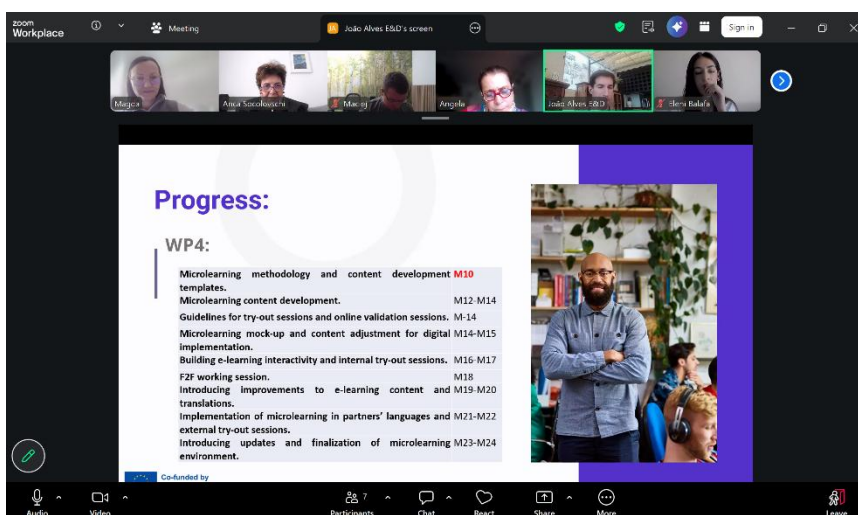
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E-WEAVE – A European partnership in vocational training

2025–2027 · Erasmus+ KA210-VET · Partner

A small-scale partnership, won in 2025 and launched at the very end of the year, opening a new chapter in vocational training.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 60,000 / EUR 17,900



05 Money well managed

Financial position 2025

We closed 2025 with income up 11.6% and a surplus of RON 3,589.

RON 822,618

income, +11.6% on 2024

RON 819,029

expenditure

+RON 3,589

surplus

How money flows in a European project

When we coordinate a project, we usually receive 80% of the entire project budget at the start. We then transfer the partners' share in instalments as objectives are met. When we are partners, we in turn receive instalments from the coordinator.

This is why a year's accounting result does not always reflect our real financial position. The 2024 deficit was purely an accounting one: the money for the 2024 activities was already in the bank, having been received and recorded as income in 2023.

Where the money went in 2025



Almost 70% of the year's expenditure consisted of transfers to partners in projects coordinated by ADES. These funds support activities carried out by the organisations we work with across Europe.

At 31 December 2025, cash and bank balances totalled RON 593,866. Of this, RON 549,876 was deferred income, earmarked for activities of ongoing projects in the coming years.

Balance sheet indicators (RON)	1 Jan 2025	31 Dec 2025
Cash at bank and in hand	35,476	593,866
Deferred income	–	549,876
Receivables	19,351	24,556
Short-term liabilities	14,945	15,360
Equity	57,611	61,200

The financial statements were prepared by a chartered accountant, a member of CECCAR (the Body of Expert and Licensed Accountants of Romania). ADES carries out exclusively non-profit activities.

06 Projects that keep working

Our results remain available to everyone

Since 2017, ADES has coordinated six Erasmus+ partnerships and contributed as a partner to many more. Their legacy is practical: more than 30 free educational resources, in several languages. Scan the QR codes and discover ready-to-use tools.



scan

IADliber – Free from internet addiction

2022–2024 · KA220-ADU · Coordinator

The IADliber Survival Kit and a mobile app that helps adults check their digital habits and change them.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 250,000 / EUR 41,440



scan

InC – Innovation culture in SMEs

2022–2024 · KA220-VET · Partner

Innovation books, an e-learning programme for managers and an online platform for small businesses.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 190,207 / EUR 27,711



scan

LOCAL – Entrepreneurship after 50

2022–2024 · KA220-ADU · Partner

A digital community mentoring hub, with real stories of people who became entrepreneurs after the age of 50.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 246,190 / EUR 16,675



scan

MCRES – Critical thinking against fake news

2022–2023 · KA220-ADU · Coordinator

A trainer's guide and a mobile app with exercises and games that train critical thinking.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 190,895 / EUR 33,370



scan

Met-AE – Learning to learn

2022–2023 · KA220-ADU · Partner

Two e-learning courses on metacognitive skills, a good-practice handbook and a toolkit for trainers.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 212,836 / EUR 21,039



WINN in Curtea de Argeș: results presentation event, October 2022



scan

WINN – Training for innovation leaders

2020–2022 · KA204 · Coordinator

Videos on six innovation topics and the WINN app, with practical exercises for SME managers.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 209,430 / EUR 38,918



scan

JIMINY – Your personal coach

2019–2022 · KA204 · Coordinator

A personal development guide and an AI-based digital coach for emotional intelligence and entrepreneurial spirit.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 226,015 / EUR 33,784



scan

INCREASE – Innovation for sustainable jobs

2019–2021 · KA204 · Partner

A training platform, a self-assessment tool and a good-practice guide for adults whose jobs are changing with automation.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 280,203 / EUR 28,815



scan

iGUIDE – Take your career into your own hands

2019–2021 · KA204 · Partner

36 career planning resources and a training programme for counsellors.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 195,082 / EUR 20,825



scan

UPthEM – Pathways to employment

2019–2021 · KA204 · Partner

An entrepreneurship training programme and video stories of entrepreneurs who started out from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 154,810 / EUR 22,155



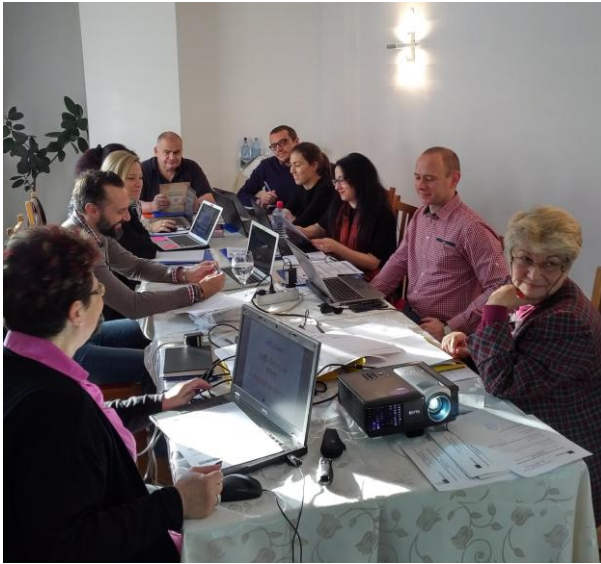
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DECENT – A life without illiteracy

2017–2019 · KA204 · Coordinator

The first Erasmus+ project coordinated by ADES: a 6-module course, tested by 61 educators and 340 adults, which reached more than 180,000 people.

Total budget / ADES: EUR 200,826 / EUR 41,096



DECENT partners visiting ADES at the kick-off meeting (November 2017) and at Curtea de Argeș Monastery

Beyond Erasmus+: results that last

ADES's experience also includes Phare and ESF projects and projects funded through the EEA and Norway Grants, implemented between 2004 and 2023. Here are some concrete results:

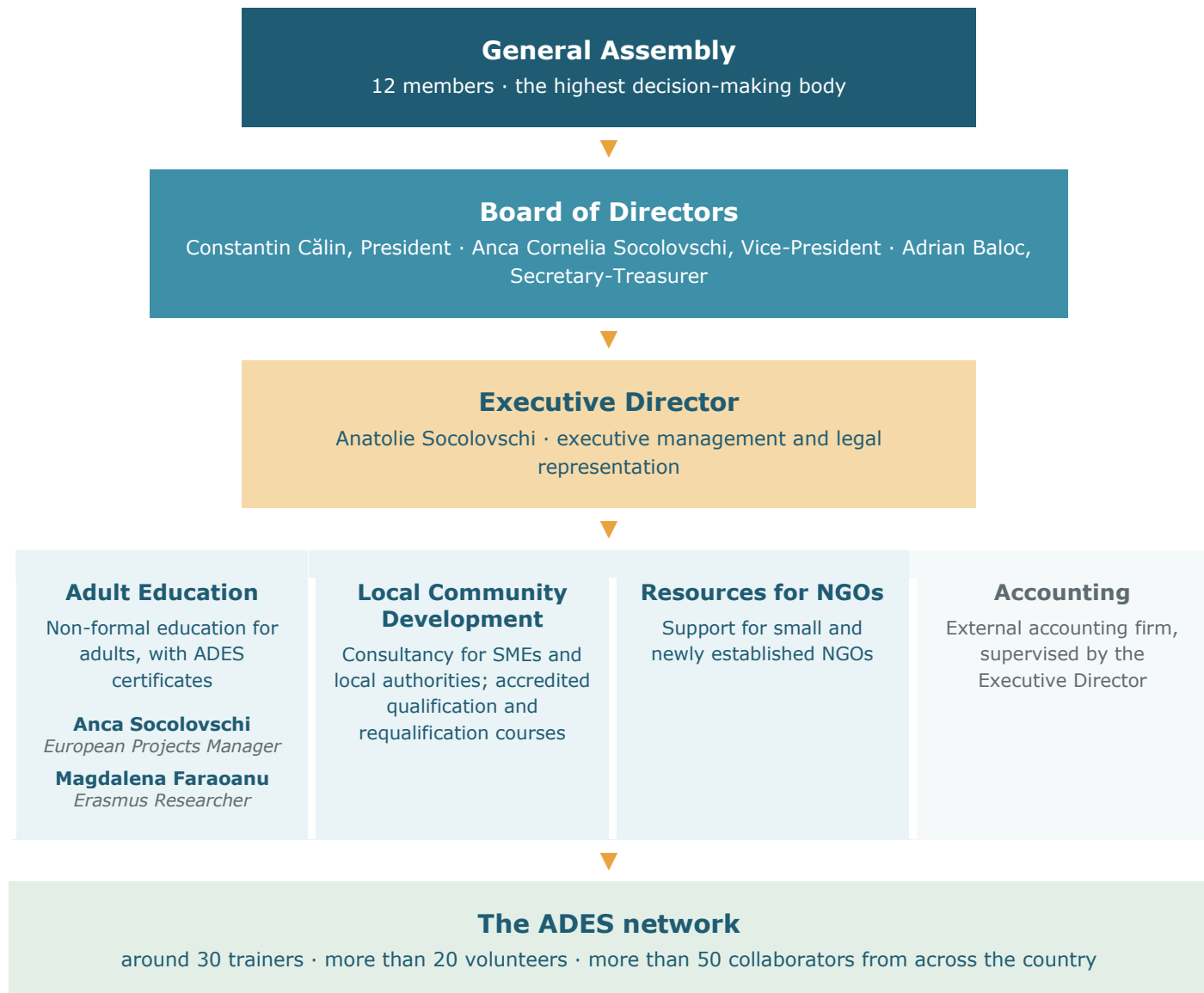
- **CRESC (2022–2023):** 250 people involved and 150 pupils given civic education, through the Active Citizens Fund
- **Start antreprenoriat! (Start-up entrepreneurship, 2018–2020):** 310 entrepreneurs trained, 38 businesses funded and 76 jobs created
- **EVA (2011–2013):** 150 women qualified
- **Antreprenoriatul, de la idee la succes (Entrepreneurship, from idea to success, 2010–2012):** a county entrepreneurship support centre and 14 new companies
- **ARGCOMS (2009–2011):** 186 graduates of traditional craft courses in Corbi and Tigveni
- **Bun meseriaș, caut patron (Skilled worker seeking employer, 2008–2009):** 159 Roma people from 10 communities, of whom 115 graduated
- **11 Phare projects (2004–2009):** hundreds of unemployed people and employees qualified in Argeș, Alba and Mureș

07 The people of ADES

Team and governance

People bring projects to life: 12 members, 2 permanent staff, around 30 trainers, more than 20 volunteers and more than 50 collaborators.

How we are organised



Leadership team



Anca Cornelia Socolovschi
Vice-President



Anatolie Socolovschi
Executive Director and Legal Representative

Strategic direction is provided by the General Assembly and the Board of Directors: Constantin Călin, President; Anca Cornelia Socolovschi, Vice-President; Adrian Baloc, Secretary-Treasurer. Anatolie Socolovschi leads executive activity through three departments: Adult Education, Local Community Development and Resources for NGOs.

08 Together

Partners and funders

From Argeş, we have built working relationships with organisations from 14 European countries.

Austria · Bulgaria · Cyprus · Estonia · Germany · Greece · Ireland · Italy · Malta · Poland · Portugal · Spain · the Netherlands · Turkey

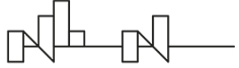
ADES's projects and results have grown thanks to collaboration with partners and funders: the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, managed in Romania by ANPCDEFP (the National Agency for Community Programmes in Education and Vocational Training), the Active Citizens Fund through the EEA and Norway Grants and, in earlier stages, the European Social Fund and the Phare programme. We thank each of them for their trust and contribution.



Cofinanțat de
Uniunea Europeană



Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants



Norway grants

Looking ahead: 2026

We are continuing EM&M and E-WEAVE, completing 4equality and preparing new initiatives in intercultural mediation and Roma inclusion, including the DROM proposal. We are also exploring Erasmus+ accreditation for adult education.

09 Let's stay in touch

Contact details and social media



ASOCIAȚIA DE DEZVOLTARE
ECONOMIC ȘI SOCIALĂ

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Registered in the Register of Associations and Foundations of the Curtea de Argeș Court under no. 24/PJ of 13.06.1995 ·
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