



PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN



**SEMINARUL TEOLOGIC ORTODOX
SFÂNTUL IOAN GURĂ DE AUR
TÂRGOVIȘTE**

Networking the European Parliament to the Dâmbovița County local youth community: A partnership for democratic values and knowledge

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Name of the project: Networking the European Parliament to the Dambovita County local youth community: A partnership for democratic values and knowledge

Specific objective(s): *(explain your objectives in running the action proposed and their relation to the objectives as set out in the call for proposals. Describe the target group(s) and the number of expected participants (viewers, attendees)*

In November 2007 in Romania the first elections for the European Parliament were held. Although the Romanians were, according to all previous estimates, the most enthusiastic Euro-optimistic of all Europe, the rate of participation in the elections was disappointingly low with more than two thirds of Romanians choosing to stay home and not exercise their long-expected Euro-voting rights. Some answers have been proposed to explain the contrast between Euro-enthusiasm and indifference, not the least of which the lack of knowledge about the role and function of the European Parliament was mentioned. Besides the division inside the political class including the clash between the embattled President, Prime Minister and the notoriously unpopular Romanian Parliament and between the political class and the electorate, which has lately diminished the enthusiasm of population for political participation, the largest share of Romanian population was critically ignorant of what the European Parliament can do to improve their daily life. The contrast gets even sharper when one notices that the largest voting participation was registered not in the islands of prosperity and Europeanity – namely the Capital and the larger towns – but in the smaller urban areas and more especially in the rural communities. In fact, many of those who cast their votes in the elections were ignorant even of what kind of elections they were voting for and, sadly, their voting was strongly influenced by local mayors and potentates.

According to the 2007 yearly opinion poll, the church still enjoys 77% of popularity with the Romanian public, ranking first in the top of the most trusted institutions, while the EU performed well ranking third with 67% popularity. Nevertheless, while the church has an extensive network of

parishes which covers the entire Romanian territory and thus facilitates nationwide communication, the EU has still little possibilities to communicate its messages to the public. This can be held especially true when speaking about the countryside and smaller urban communities where the usage of internet, for instance, it is still rather an exception.

It is against this backdrop that our project is designed to contribute to dissipating the ignorance of future generations of Euro-voters, many of whom will be requested to cast for the first time their votes in the June 2009 European elections. In order to achieve these goals, we are specifically targeting a youth public of 300 students of 14 to 19 year old attending our high school and 1,030 youth parishioners of 7 to 18 year old from seven parishes of the Archbishopric of Targoviste, situated in rural areas (Viforâta - 100, Vişineşti - 100, Priboiu - 200, Cazaci-Nucet – 250 and Gura Ocnitei - 300) and even remote rural areas (Runcu – 50 and Ibrianu – Lereşti – 30). The priests serving into these parishes are also full time teachers in our high school. Consequently, our project will not only contribute to a better knowledge of the role and function of the European Parliament among students from our high school, but will also use our network of parishes to bring this knowledge further into the local community. Furthermore, this project is not only about knowledge, but it is more about integrated knowledge, that is about assuming and practicing the right of full citizenship and becoming involved in decision-making.

Besides, this project targets not only the ethnic Romanian population from the areas above-mentioned and from our seminary, but also the noticeable number of Dambovita county Roma young population which will be particularly encouraged to take part in the project so as to learn and practice the advantages of full citizenship and integration into the European community of peoples.

Because the Dambovita county has a big demography and the countryside is relatively poor, thus making these inhabitants, especially the youngsters, natural candidates to work migration to Spain, Italy or Great Britain, this project will contribute to make them aware of their rights as European citizens, to encourage them to develop their entrepreneurial skills with the result that they will be able to bring their contribution to the wellbeing of their community by remaining in Romania, or to help their integration in the countries they are immigrating into.

Furthermore, a contribution to the formation of our students and of the parishioners will be brought by our partners from the Jean Monnet Chair of the Faculty of Humanities of Valahia University of Targoviste. Two professors from this chair and 15 university students who have completed the Jean Monnet module will take part in the projected seminars, roundtables, publications and actions designed as a part of this project.

In the course of the project, the students of our high school from receptors will gradually become alongside their teachers formers of other youth from the above-mentioned seven parishes. By doing so, the integrated knowledge will enlarge and expand as a snowball rolling through a layer of snow.

Detailed description of the action: *(please provide a clear and detailed explanation as to what exactly is planned within this project proposal, include dates or events and key stages of the project, include venues for meetings or events)*

In order to achieve our goals as set above, the project is devised over a period of ten months, namely from 1 January to 31 June and from 1 September to 31 December 2009. Some actions will also take place in July and August. There are several key stages this project will run through in order to achieve the goals of assuming and practicing the right of full citizenship and becoming involved in decision-making. In some of these stages only teachers and students from our high school will be involved, in others priest-teachers, students and youth parishioners will be summoned to take part,

while in others our partners from the Jean Monnet Chair and university students will be implicated.

The first stage of the project will familiarise the students and eventually the parishioners with the history, works and functions of the European Parliament and the European institutions. This will be achieved in step 1:

Step 1 - creating integrated knowledge of EU institutions and Parliament:

- Starting with 9 February and ending on 11 June 2009 *special courses* will be introduced to all our classes called *The European Parliament: history, functions and role at the beginning of 21 century*. The courses will be taught by our project's team teachers. The courses will be supplemented by *monthly seminars* to be attended also by parishioners in which discussion groups will be formed with the support of graduates of Jean Monnet Module of Valahia University of Targoviste (on 17 February, 17 March, 17 April and 18 May). The seminars will achieve the translation of information into formation and of knowledge into integrated knowledge. The seminars will continue in the autumn semester from 10 September to 15 December 2009 (on 10 September – marking the first gathering of the Common Assembly of the European Community of Coal and Steel in 1952, 18 October, 17 November and 17 December).

- In addition to these courses which will be hosted by our high school, *monthly conferences* attended by our students and by youth parishioners delivered by two professors of the Jean Monnet Chair of Valahia University of Targoviste will be held in the Conference Hall of Valahia University of Targoviste. They are set to take place on:

23 February – *The history of the European Union: an introductory survey*;

30 March – *The European Parliament: history and current challenges* (on 30 March 1962 the European Assembly has changed its name to European Parliament);

13 April – *The European Parliament and its role in the EU enlargement with the former Communist states* (on 13 April 2005 has given its consent to Romania and Bulgaria's adherence to the EU);

9 May – *Full EU citizenship: an interface between EU institutions and citizens* (Europe Day);

- Starting with 11 January and ending on 31 May 2009 and then from 1 September to 31 December the teacher-priests of our high school will organise at the parish every two Saturdays or Sundays after the religious service, two hours of seminars and debates on the history, role and functions of the EU institutions, with a special emphasis on the EU Parliament and the EU citizen rights. The seminars and debates will be regularly attended by our students who will act alongside their teachers as formers of the parishioners.

Step 2 – practicing full citizenship and becoming involved into decision-making;

- 7 June 2009: elections will be held for our Seminary and Network Youth European Parliament in which 17 MPs will be chosen for a mandate of one year to participate in the decision-making and to elaborate proposals for furthering the rights of EU youth in the EU (this is to mark the 30th anniversary of the first direct elections for the European Parliament and the largest world democratic elections to be organised in the EU member-states between 4 and 7 June). Every class of our seminar and every parish will elect one MP (making up to 17 in total);

- 17 June: the Parliament will gather in the first assembly in the new assembly hall to be open

with the support of this grant from the European Parliament, the room being offered by our seminary; the Parliament will elaborate its own charta and will work in order to positively influence the decision-making in our high school and in their local communities as well as for making their voice heard nationally and even at the EU level; the Parliament will also elect its own president and working commissions; its debates will be made public;

- The Youth Parliament will elect ten representatives to represent it in a visit to the European Parliament in Bruxelles to be organized at the beginning of September 2009;
- 15 December 2008: The Youth Parliament will end the autumn session by calling an workshop titled *The Youth as an interface between the European Parliament and the European Citizens: how the youth can design tomorrow's Europe?*; among the speakers will be students from our seminary, from among the parishioners, students from other high schools from Dambovită Country, students from the Jean Monnet Chair and foreign exchange students studying at Valahia University of Targoviste from European countries (Spain, France, Italy and from other countries);

Step 3 – disseminating information about the EU Parliament and institutions;

At this stage, our students and parishioners will contribute to a larger dissemination of information about the European Parliament and institutions in their local communities. It must be held in mind that more than a half of our students come from rural communities and can play a significant role into raising the awareness of their fellow villagers about the European Parliament and the importance of European elections and citizenship rights.

The information disseminated by the members of this project will envisage:

- The editing under the guidance of the teachers and the Jean Monnet Chair of a textbook titled *The European Parliament for youth written by youth*. This textbook – the first in Romania on this topic designed as a high school textbook – is meant to be used in education not only by our high school or in our county but nationwide. The book will be edited until July 2009 in order to be used in the next schooling year 2009/2010;
- In preparation for the European parliamentary elections, in May and June 2009 a brochure, a DVD with information and leaflets will be elaborated by our team to be distributed by our teachers, teacher-priests and students into their local communities. The brochure will explain in clear words the functions and role of the European Parliament and institutions and how they contribute to improve their daily life;
- Information activities about the significance European elections will be held between 1 May and 1 June in the parishes that are part of this project with the participation of teachers, teacher-priests and our students;
- New information activities will be held in the autumn semester in each of the parishes included in this project, four parishes hosting such activities in October and three parishes in November; our students will participate in these information sessions;

Step 4 – visiting the European Parliament and institutions in Brussels;

At this stage, ten students elected by the Youth Parliament and the person responsible for this project will visit the European Parliament in Brussels between 1 and 6 September 2009. This will give them the opportunity to better familiarise with the work of the European Parliament and

institutions. As a result of this visit, an exhibition of photography will be opened on 1 October in the Youth Parliament hall with the participation of all the actors involved in this project, to be followed by a debate about the European institutions.

Organisation / implementation: *(please describe the overall concept of the project; the way it will be organised; comment on the relevance of the qualifications, skills and experience of the team assigned to the project, especially in terms of project management; comment on the capacity of your organisation to run such a project; if applicable, please specify the exact tasks relating to the project which the Applicant is planning to subcontract to another organization / company / association- tasks which will be invoiced; if applicable detail clearly the tasks which will be carried out directly by the Applicant and which tasks by any Partner organisations)*

In contrast to other projects which are focused on transmitting information, knowledge, skills, our project is rather envisaging forming or better said even ‘forging’ information, knowledge, skills and even more on practicing and forwarding such knowledge and skills. While many other projects are targeting rather urban subjects with more access to information, in our project the target is constituted by both rural and urban young population, the focus being on the former category of individuals with little or no access to modern channels of communication. In this respect, our project is also using age-old institutions of communication with such public, the aim being not only to disseminate formative information and practical skills about the European Parliament, but also to bring modernity and innovation in the dialogue between parish and their youth parishioners. By doing so, the church will deepen its social role and a transfer of popularity and trust from the church to the European Union will occur. By targeting a large youth population, we will contribute to a change in the interest of the population, including the villagers, toward the European institutions, especially the European Parliament. This will also affect people’s behaviour toward the European elections. We start from the premise that it is not only the youth who learns from the matures, but also the grown-up can and do learn from the youth, their children included.

The management of the project will be also innovative in the meaning that it is assigned not only to teachers and teacher-priests, but also to students and parishioners. Many participants in this project will manage some portion of this project and thus will be responsible for it. Students and parishioners will elect their MPs, the MPs will gather in the Youth Parliament, our students, parishioners and our partners graduated of the Jean Monnet module will take part in a large array of activities which will develop their entrepreneurial skills. By defusing the tasks and responsibilities while also coordinating them adequately, we are trustful that the achievement of the expected results will be facilitated.

As already mentioned, our high school will be involved in all the activities designed within this project, either by implicating the teachers, the teacher-priests, the students or the entire team. The professors of the Jean Monnet Chair (Prof. Ion Calafeteanu and Reader Silviu Miloiu) and the graduates of Jean Monnet Chair of Valahia University of Targoviste will take part in conferences, seminars, workshops, publications as stated above and will act as formers and partners throughout the action. All the expenses such as salaries for their professors, travel expenses for their students and professors, the rental of the premises for conferences hosted by Valahia University of Targoviste and any other payments will be fully covered by our partners.

The publication of the textbook envisaged in this project to explain by youth for youth the European Parliament will be edited with the support of a printing house to be selected on the best quality and price basis. The printing house will be responsible for printing the book to be eventually distributed by our network, the Ministry of Education and the country inspectorate of education being also

involved in the project.

Expected results and their use: *(please describe what results you hope to achieve through your project; describe in detail the way in which results will be disseminated (how and to whom); describe what form and method will be employed to publicise your activities and in which ways this will give visibility to the project; please provide a description of exactly what will be delivered to the European Parliament on completion of the project)*

Given the aims of this project, its accomplishment will not only mean that the youth from our seminary and from seven rural parishes receives adequate knowledge about the European institutions, especially about the European Parliament. In fact, this is only a stage in a more ambitious project designed to forming rather than informing, to practicing rather than only learning. Our vision is to change the patterns, the behaviour, the attitudes toward parliamentarianism and Europeanness among youngsters especially in the countryside. As a result, they will become involved in decision-making, will no longer be solely receptors but active contributors to the society aware of what their rights as European citizens are and how to practice them.

All the activities designed in this project are feedback providers, in the meaning that they are meant to produce short-time or long-time results and informative evaluation which will adequately be used into shaping the future actions envisaged in the project.

In the step 1 of creating integrated knowledge of EU institutions and European Parliament, the courses, seminars, discussion-groups and conferences envisaged will target our students (300 students) and parishioners (1,030) and the formers will be teachers, teacher-priests, professors from the Jean Monnet Chair and university students. All and each of these actions will be provided with a measurement tool on the impact of these actions, with a feedback which the “clients” of these actions are required to fill in and by essay presentations of the students. The best three essays of this action will be selected to be published in our seminary’s journal *Raze de Lumină*. The local and national mass-media and the local community will be informed of these actions and their results by press communiqués and by publishing them on the webpage of our seminary, of Valahia University of Targoviste and the county inspectorate of education. The conferences of our Jean Monnet Chair’s partners will be also widely publicised and mass-media invited to follow the discussions. The target-public of these conferences will be not only our students, but also parishioners from our seven parishes. Because of that, the parishes will advertise these actions in the parishes’ poster boards and verbally after the sermons.

The step 2 is less theoretical and more applicative, thus making it even more adequate to feedback and publicity. The elections for the Seminary and Network Youth Parliament will be also announced by leaflets and by publication in the local press such as Radio Dambovita, Artpress TV, Targoviste TV, Dambovita, Jurnalul de Dambovita. The best indicator of the interest this action is raising rests in the participation in the elections. The festivity of the opening of the Parliament will be also advertised in the local and national mass-media, on the internet and the charta and other documents elaborated by the Parliament posted on the internet and summaries delivered to mass-media.

The advertisement of the workshop titled *The Youth as an interface between the European Parliament and the European Citizens: how the youth can design tomorrow’s Europe?* will be achieved via the internet webpages of our institution and partners and via the national and local mass-media (press communiqués will be issued months in advance to mass-media). A summary of the debates within this conference will be published in the international review *Valahian Journal of Historical Studies* and in our review *Raze de Lumină*. The target of this action will be our students

and parishioners who will actively take part in the proceedings and debates alongside other students, graduates of Jean Monnet Module and European exchange students. At the end of the conference, a debate about the outcome of the conference will be held.

The step 3 is transforming the receptors into donors. The target will be a much larger public to which our team of students, teachers and partners is addressing by the actions envisaged at this stage. The textbook *The European Parliament for youth written by youth (Parlamentul European explicat de tineri pentru tineri)* will be published in 1,000 copies, additional editions being envisaged upon requests. The textbook will be distributed nationwide with the informative support of the Ministry of Education. The textbook presentation will be scheduled in the first school day on 15 September 2009, mass-media being informed of the action.

The action designed in support of the June 2009 European parliamentary elections is targeting both our students, young parishioners and their local communities. The brochure, the leaflets and the DVD will be also distributed by our teacher-priests in their parishes, the DVD aiming at the small number of IT literate young villagers and to the larger number of urban and small urban areas of the Dambovita County. This action will contribute to a larger number of voters being informed about the significance of their vote and being called to exercise their voting rights. This is an action to combat ignorance and thus support from our teacher-priests, students, parishioners and local mass-media will be requested. This action will continue beyond the date of the European elections in July and in the autumn.

The last major action contemplated in this project will give the opportunity to ten students and to the coordinator of this project to visit the European Parliament and the Brussels-based European institutions. As a result of this visit, a photo exhibition will open on 1 October in the Youth Parliament, followed by a debate about the European institutions. The exhibition will be advertised in media, in the parishes, through the internet and will remain as a permanent exhibition in the Youth Parliament. Our students, parishioners and partners will be involved in this action.

The diverse actions and means of publicity and visibility of this action will grant this project the opportunity to reach the public we are aiming at and achieve the results as set in its initial scopes.

At the completion of this project, the project team will deliver the European Parliament:

- publications: the articles dedicated to this action published in the reviews *Raze de Lumină* and *Valahian Journal of Historical Studies*, the brochure and the leaflets used in the campaign for the European parliamentary elections, any other publications achieved by our team;
- copy of the DVD;
- copy of the textbook *The European Parliament for youth written by youth*;
- the charta and documents elaborated by the Seminary and Network Youth Parliament;
- the catalogue of the photo exhibition;
- copies of all the conferences, workshops, seminars programs;
- paper copies and DVD's of all the materials published in the press or broadcasted on TV concerning the actions undertaken under this project;
- any other feedback documents (including the essays) elaborated during the action;
- detailed documents consisting of the expenses undertaken under this project.

Would you prefer to receive a grant agreement in English, French or in German? (please indicate)

English

2.2 DURATION AND SUMMARY TIMETABLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

The period during which an action is carried out determines the period of eligibility of the corresponding costs.

(Applicants are informed that, under the financial legislation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, no grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed. Furthermore expenditure incurred before the signature of a grant agreement will not be considered as eligible expenditure, for the calculation of the final grant amount. Projects that show a start date or an end date outside of the dates set-out in the Call for Proposals will be automatically rejected at evaluation of exclusion criteria stage)

Applicants are requested to indicate and justify:

- the planned dates for starting and completing the action:

Start date: 1 January 2009 (enter date on which activities will commence)

Completion date: 20 December 2009 (enter date on which activities will be completed)

- the timetable for carrying out each stage of the action showing the main key dates and the objectives/expected results for each stage: *(use separate sheet where necessary)*

Step 1. Major aim: creating integrated knowledge of EU institutions and Parliament:

- 9 February – 11 June 2009: teaching the course and the seminars *The European Parliament: history, functions and role at the beginning of 21 century*. Includes *monthly seminars* to be attended also by parishioners in which discussion groups will be formed with the support of graduates of Jean Monnet Module of Valahia University of Targoviste (on 17 February, 17 March, 17 April and 18 May). The seminars will continue in the autumn semester from 10 September to 15 December 2009 (on 10 September).
- *monthly conferences* attended by our students and by youth parishioners and delivered by two professors of the Jean Monnet Chair of Valahia University of Targoviste will be held in the big Conference Hall of Valahia University of Targoviste: 23 February – *The history of the European Union: an introductory survey*; 30 March – *The European Parliament: history and current challenges*; 13 April – *The European Parliament and its role in the EU enlargement with the former Communist states*; 9 May – *Full EU citizenship: an interface between EU institutions and citizens*;
- 11 January - 31 May 2009 and 1 September to 31 December: Saturday and Sunday schools and seminars at the parishes on the history, role and functions of the EU institutions, with a special emphasis on the EU Parliament and the EU citizen rights;

Step 2. Major aim: practicing full citizenship and becoming involved into decision-making;

- 7 June 2009: elections will be held for our Seminary and Network Youth European Parliament;
- 17 June: the Parliament will gather in the first assembly in the new assembly hall to be open with the support of this grant from the European Parliament, the room being offered by our seminary;
- The Youth Parliament will elect ten representatives to represent it in a visit to the EU Parliament in Bruxelles to be organized at the beginning of September 2009;
- 15 December 2008: The Youth Parliament will end the autumn session by calling an workshop titled *The Youth as an interface between the European Parliament and the European Citizens: how the youth can design tomorrow's Europe?*;

Step 3. Major aim: disseminating information about the EU Parliament and institutions;

- July 2009: The editing of a textbook titled *The European Parliament for youth written by youth*. This textbook will be used in the next schooling year 2009/2010;
- May – June 2009: In preparation for the European parliamentary elections, a brochure, a DVD with information and leaflets will be elaborated by our team to be distributed by our teachers, teacher-priests and students into their local communities;
- 1 May – 1 June 2009: Information activities about the significance European elections will be held between 1 May and 1 June in the parishes that are part of this project with the participation of teachers, teacher-priests and our students;
- October – November 2009: New information activities will be held in the autumn semester in each of the parishes included in this project;

Step 4: Major aims: Visiting the European Parliament and institutions in Brussels and disseminating information

- 1 and 6 September 2009: visit to the European Parliament in Brussels;
- 1 October: exhibition of photography will open in the Youth Parliament hall.

2.3 INVOLVEMENT OF THIRD PARTIES IN THE ACTION

NB: A partner organisation is one who will contribute to the running of the activities, will incur real costs and will report them to the European Parliament via the beneficiary organisation and will be bound by the same terms and conditions as the beneficiary organisation. A sub-contracting organisation is one who is contracted to perform certain tasks or provide services for the realisation of the project and who will charge for those services against an invoice.

(Please state clearly whether the third party is a partner or a sub-contractor; provide name(s) and address(s) of third party organisations. If sub-contractors, detail the procedure which will be followed for the award of the contract. If partners, detail the arrangements for the sharing of the grant amount requested and indicate clearly in the

budget at point 3 which costs will be incurred by the applicant and which by the partner. Describe the tasks that will be performed by each of the parties- applicant; partner; sub-contractor).

The goals of the project will be achieved in partnership with the Jean Monnet Chair of the Faculty of Humanities of Valahia University of Targoviste. Two professors from the Jean Monnet Chair and 15 university students will actively take part in the implementation of this project and our partner will contribute 1,500 EUROS in this action covering travel expenses, salaries, other allowances, the renting of Valahia University big hall etc.

The actions attended or organised in partnership with the Jean Monnet Chair of the Faculty of Humanities of Valahia University of Targoviste include:

- Discussion groups created to supplement the course *The European Parliament: history, functions and role at the beginning of 21 century.*
- Monthly conferences delivered by the Jean Monnet Chair of Valahia University of Targoviste held in the big Conference Hall of Valahia University of Targoviste;
- Participation in the workshop titled *The Youth as an interface between the European Parliament and the European Citizens: how the youth can design tomorrow's Europe?;*
- Support in editing of a textbook titled *The European Parliament for youth written by youth.* This textbook will be used in the next schooling year 2009/2010;
- Support in the dissemination of the results of the conferences.

A printing house will be selected for publishing the textbook *European Parliament for youth written by youth.*