

Activity report 2023

identity.
education

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1. US

foreword

Andre Rădulescu
Identity.Education founder

We're excited to share the next chapter in our journey for LGBTQIA+ rights in Romania. Last year, we've strengthened our role as a national leader in event production focused on art and culture. By using these platforms, we're promoting unique forms of cultural mediation and education, each distinct yet interconnected in our mission.

We've learned that in the always-unfolding acts of talking about history, the best narrators are those who have actually lived it. This is especially true when delving into the complex history of the LGBTQIA+ community both on a global scale and within the context in Romania.

The global LGBTQIA+ community's history is one of remarkable resilience and transformation. As we focus on the LGBTQIA+ community in Romania, a similar narrative of resilience and transformation emerges, however with its unique nuances. Across history, marginalised groups, including the LGBTQIA+ community, have faced shared challenges of oppression and limited self-determination. What distinguishes their stories is the intricate interplay of socio-political, cultural, and economic forces.

That is why, over the past year, we've successfully promoted numerous LGBTQIA+ art projects, funded by both national and EU sources. These projects have been key in driving mainstream change through art, transforming public opinion, and breaking down long-standing stereotypes.

Our work in art and culture goes beyond visibility; it's about making a lasting impact. By bringing LGBTQIA+ stories into the mainstream, we're changing perceptions and fostering a more inclusive environment. The transformation of public opinion through art shows just how powerful creative expression can be in driving social change.

Looking ahead, we're committed to continuing our advocacy for LGBTQIA+ rights and building a society where everyone can live freely and authentically. Together, through the power of art and culture, we'll keep paving the way for a more inclusive and accepting Romania.



main areas of work

Art & Culture: For us, art and culture are instruments that amplify voices and stories, that challenge existing stereotypes, and that facilitate rewiring. Art and culture reflect back to us, show us, make us vulnerable, provide answers where we may not know how to ask questions, and help us understand concepts and experiences that may have never belonged to us.

Education: Through our projects, we educate others and ourselves; we offer answers and references, and we hold trainings and workshops.

We create meaningful projects designed by and for the LGBTQIA+ community in western Romania. We collaborate with stakeholders from the public, private, and civil sectors.

We do not believe in education as a one-way process; rather, we believe in education as a collective endeavor in which everyone has something to contribute, and where everyone can learn from others and with others.

Community Work: We understand how important a sense of belonging is and how challenging it can be to find people who truly understand you. Therefore, we create safe spaces for the local LGBTQIA+ community, offering peer-to-peer services, organizing events, discussion forums, or simply providing a place where the LGBTQIA+ community can feel safe.



2. art & culture

pridetm 2023

Between June 24 and July 1st, 2023, we hosted a program that served as an exploration of all dimensions of queer identity through events designed for and by the entire community.

In 2023, we also organized the second Pride TM march in Timișoara.

On social media, we reached over 100,000 people, gained coverage in international, national and local media, and had over 2000 participants at our events, with more than 1,200 attendees at the Pride march.



sports day/games night: we met at in a public park at the tennis and sand volleyball courts, ready for slackline, badminton, and ping pong, and then we stayed late to play board games.

/community event

a guided queer tour: the community looking for its history, to understand how it got here, and to grasp the generational traumas it carries on its shoulders. That's why, together with Timisoara Tour Guide, we hosted the yearly guided tour of the city to (re) discover places of resilience and places of both historical and community interest.

/guided tour

a song of queer joys and sorrows: Zarug, a Romanian queer performer, told us cabaret-style stories, accompanied by the poetic piano of Francis Mozes, in an intimate setting, with twinkling lights hanging from the trees, as the evening descended, with a glass of champagne in hand.

/performance

resilience during Pride: we met alongside Diana Statenco, a therapist trained in solution-focused therapy, to discuss together how to take care of ourselves during Pride.

/community event

pride in the park: Already in its third edition, we reclaimed a public park, organized workshops, hosted exhibitions and

music, and spent a relaxing afternoon within the community.

/community event

movie night: we watched a series of queer short films selected by BFI. The films had one thing in common, something so obvious yet often trivialized: love is a fundamental, inalienable right. **/movies**

The Scorpion Snuff Box: the exhibition starts from the novel "Scorpion" ("Der Skorpion"), published during the interwar period by the Romanian-German writer Anna Elisabet Weirauch (1887-1970).

Through "The Scorpion Snuff Box – a visual journey into a queer novel," we envision a journey through the ideas of the novel, in which the author proposes a subjective exploration formulated through the surrealist method of objective chance in a "lesbian" universe.

See more details about the exhibition in the following pages.

/exhibition

pride tm march 2023: we asked for and continue to demand legal recognition of queer families after the second edition of the march in Timișoara.

There were over 1200 of us.

The cabaret performance, Pride in the Park, and the exhiviton weere funded by the Project Center through the Fluid Views Station.

LGBTQIA+ history month 2023

For the LGBTQIA+ community in Romania, the month of October represents a month of events that celebrate our culture and history. Year after year, we strive to reclaim lost fragments of invisibility.



queer love: Museum of Queer History and Culture: art gives us the chance to be ourselves and to imagine who we can be. It brings to the surface projections, loves, and intimacies forgotten or screened from history and from the present. It recruits deities, peasants, and proletarians, artists who question or defy the norm. It's about those who must occupy public space to avoid being ignored and stigmatized. It's about us and our families living in a hostile society. */exhibitor*

baba karam: is a participatory 50-minute performance and a euphoric dance party inspired by the Iranian dance of the same name. Inspired by home Iranian parties, called mehmoon, and the movements that amateur dancers from around the world sent to the Ful artistic group, the group paid homage to the potential of dance to change and allow the existence of desires and identities that are forbidden. */performance*

political dance floors: is an introduction to dance styles that have influenced the queer community. The first workshop was conducted by Waana and will be an introduction to Waacking and Vogue, while the second, on belly dancing, was led by The Darvish, a non-binary dancer from Syria. */dance workshops*

drag district: navigating different styles and visions, performers have explored intimate territories and claimed pieces of a complex and oppressive history, but also united by competition, shine, grotesque, and glam. */drag show*

how do we translate gender? reading of the first translation into Romanian of "Der Skorpion": the reading of the first translation into Romanian of "Der Skorpion" by Anna Elisabet Weirauch.

A writer and actress with an exceptional destiny, Anna Elisabet Weirauch was born in 1887 in Galați, where she spent her early years. She emigrated to Berlin, where she built a successful career as an author. Between 1919 and 1931, she published "Der Skorpion" — one of the world's first novels with lesbian themes, which enjoyed unexpected success upon its release.

*Translation: Iulia Dondorici
Reading: Olga Török*

/public reading

kings & queens: an internationally acclaimed series of photographs depicting drag artists alongside their other half: themselves. Each image showcases the same person both in and out of drag. */drag exhibitor*

Program funded by the Project Center as part of the Fluid Views route.

the scorpion snuffbox - a visual journey into a queer novel

The exhibition starts from the novel “Scorpion” (Der Skorpion), published during the interwar period by the Romanian-German writer Anna Elisabet Weirauch (1887-1970).

Through “The Scorpion Snuff Box – a visual journey into a queer novel,” we envision a journey through the ideas of the novel, in which the author offers a subjective exploration formulated through the surrealist method of objective chance in a “lesbian” universe.\

The exhibition proposes a revisiting of this history in a queer-surrealist dialogue with contemporary art, placing the queer experience on a historical continuum. The documentary section includes fragments of history preserved in the Spinnboden Lesbian Archive collection in Berlin. Through these documents, the lesbian universe of Weimar-era Germany is introduced, a time of liberalization that transformed the city into a true queer capital, up until the rise of National Socialism and the outbreak of World War II.



DIANA MATILDA CRIȘAN
Melusine, 2021



SOPHIE UTIKAL
Need to Touch, 2020

Maria **Balea**

Traude **Bührmann**

Mimi **Ciora**

Diana Matilda **Crișan**

Ramona **Dima & Simona Dumitriu**

Georgiana **Dobre & Kjersti Vetterstad**

Katja Lee **Eliad**

Yishay **Garbasz**

Daniela **Groza**

Tirdad **Hashemi & Soufia Erfanian**

Mia Imani **Harrison**

Alexandra **Ivanciu**

Anastasia **Manole**

Hortensia Mi **Kafchin**

Marta **Mattioli**

Ștefania **Meșteriu**

Marta **Orlando**

Ileana **Pașcalău**

Elvisy **Pisică**

Iulia **Pordea**

Orka

Clémentine **Roy**

Sophie **Utikal**

You can view the exhibition in digital format by accessing the QR code in the bottom right corner here.

We wanted to make more than just an exhibition out of The Scorpion Snuffbox (Tabachera cu Scorpion). We wanted it to be a hub during the weeks it was open, where people interested in lesbian culture and art could get to know artists and activists through their art and discussions with Suzette Robichon and Traude Bührmann, as well as through the screening of the film Orlando My Political Biography, directed by Paul B. Preciado—a movie that would encourage questions, answers, and self-exploration.

The digital version of the exhibition is how we want to continue bringing queer culture and art into the awareness of as many people as possible.



translucid

transLucid is a performance that explores significant aspects of the lives of transgender individuals in Romania, with a focus on the multiple transformations they have experienced. It serves as an extensive historical archive, spanning from the early surgeries to the legislative system, public debates, and other painful forms of discrimination against transgender individuals.

transLucid employs subjective narratives that center around representative moments in the history of the transgender community. Knowing our history is liberating, pulling us out of the invisibility perpetuated by penal codes, abusive policies, and media tainted by conservative ideologies. Claiming, knowing, speaking, staging, dancing, using our queer bodies to represent it, mourning it, and changing it—knowing our history is liberating.

Creating our history is even more liberating. **transLucid** envisions a future where we write our own narratives and build the world we want and need. It transforms into the stage where transgender individuals manifest their history through performance.

In a historic moment at the UNITER Gala 2023, the most important theater gala in Romania, held in Timișoara, “transLucid” received the prestigious British Council Award for its groundbreaking exploration of transgender people’s lives in Romania.

This marks the first time UNITER has recognized a play addressing LGBTQIA+ issues, particularly those of transgender individuals in Romania. “transLucid” uncovers hidden historical aspects, sheds light on transformations in an unprepared medical system, and critiques the media’s pejorative portrayal of transgender lives. The play’s unique blend of humor and subjective narratives, with an 86% transgender cast—non-trans cast members play only non-trans characters—demonstrates its commitment to authenticity. This accolade not only recognizes the play’s local impact but also emphasizes its role in promoting global understanding and inclusivity for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Project Team: ADAM/Ada Mușat, Andrei Dinu, Andy Andreea, Arhanghela, Aron Madon, Dragoș Petrișor, Evelyn Homeghiu, Mihaela Michailov, Patrick Brăila, Paula Dunker, Raj/Ramya, Renate Dinu

Music: Admina, Alex Bălă, Borusiade, Chlorys, Sofia Zadar, Teo Retegan



Photographs from the transLucid national premiere in Timișoara, 17th of May 2023

liberty?

Until 2001, our bodies were classified as offenses. Even though 35 years have passed since our country's liberation and 23 years since the decriminalization of same-sex relationships, can we truly say that we live and speak freely in Romania? The 2018 referendum, the proposal to amend the education law in 2020, our victory at the European Court of Human Rights, and Romania's hesitant reaction have shown us that we are not yet entirely safe or treated equally.

To continue the fight and education, it is crucial to know our collective past and to speak openly about our stories.

"Liberty?" is a premiere production by Identity. Education; it is a visual and audio representation of the last 30 years of queer movements in Romania, presented as a docu-concert projected on the Palace of Culture in Timișoara city center, accompanied by live symphonic music specially composed for the occasion.

A project by Yann Verburgh, Bogdan Balla, Eugen Jebeleanu, and Ovidiu Zimcea. Based on a concept by Andre Rădulescu. Documentary: Diana Dragomir Composer: Conor Mitchell Videomapping: Les Ateliers Nomad With contributions and archival materials from: Amnesty International, Accept Association, Ark Association, MozaiQ Association, Pride Romania Association, RiseOUT Association, ECPI, H Brașov, Museum of Queer History and Culture, Brynjar Bandlien and Manuel Pelmus, Adrian Oncu and Sorin Oncu, Florin Buhuceanu.



Photographs from Liberty? on the 14th of October 2023, at Victory Square

3. edu cation

from information to allyship

Through this project, we aim to come closer to allies and families of the LGBTQIA+ community by creating friendly guides and workshops. We want community allies and families to have a place to find the answers, the concepts, the language, the words they need to be closer to their LGBTQIA+ friends, kids, teens, parents.

We are also reaching out to organizations, academic institutions and people around us who are open (or will be open someday) to better understand the needs and how they can support the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The project is supported by The British Embassy Bucharest and by The Embassy of Ireland.

[what we have achieved]

- Updated and promoting materials with LGBTQIA+ topics;
- Increased the level of awareness among people, communities and institutions regarding inclusion through educational workshops;
- Created a guide and distributing it in pre-university institutions (to

students and teachers) regarding discrimination, bullying and their effects on mental health and academic performance;

- Developed a working document to be disseminated among public authorities to create a communication bridge between them and people from the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Created a guide with practical approaches against bullying and discrimination together with the Hope Rehabilitation Foundation, Filia Center, Un Loc, and Alexandra Corcoveanu, Roma activist.



about microaggressions and safe spaces

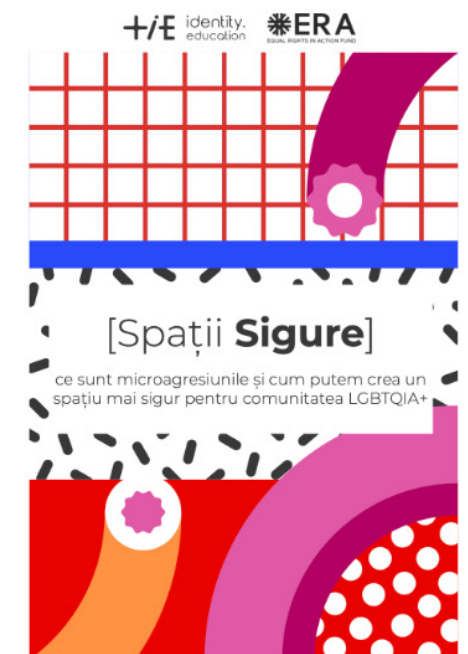
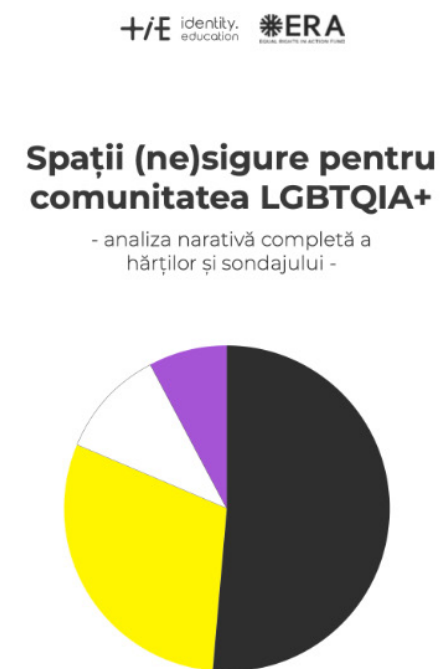
With this project, we aim to continue creating safe spaces.

We have looked into Timișoara, Bucharest, Sibiu, and Oradea and gathered data on (un)safe spaces, why they are perceived as such, and what are the recommendations for individuals who have been put in this uncomfortable status within society.

We have created a guide on how microaggressions make a space unsafe and what event organizers can do to prevent this.

We are in the process of developing an online course for event organizers, psychologists, doctors, and other stakeholders about what microaggressions mean and how to respond to them.

The project is supported by the Equal Rights in Action Fund.

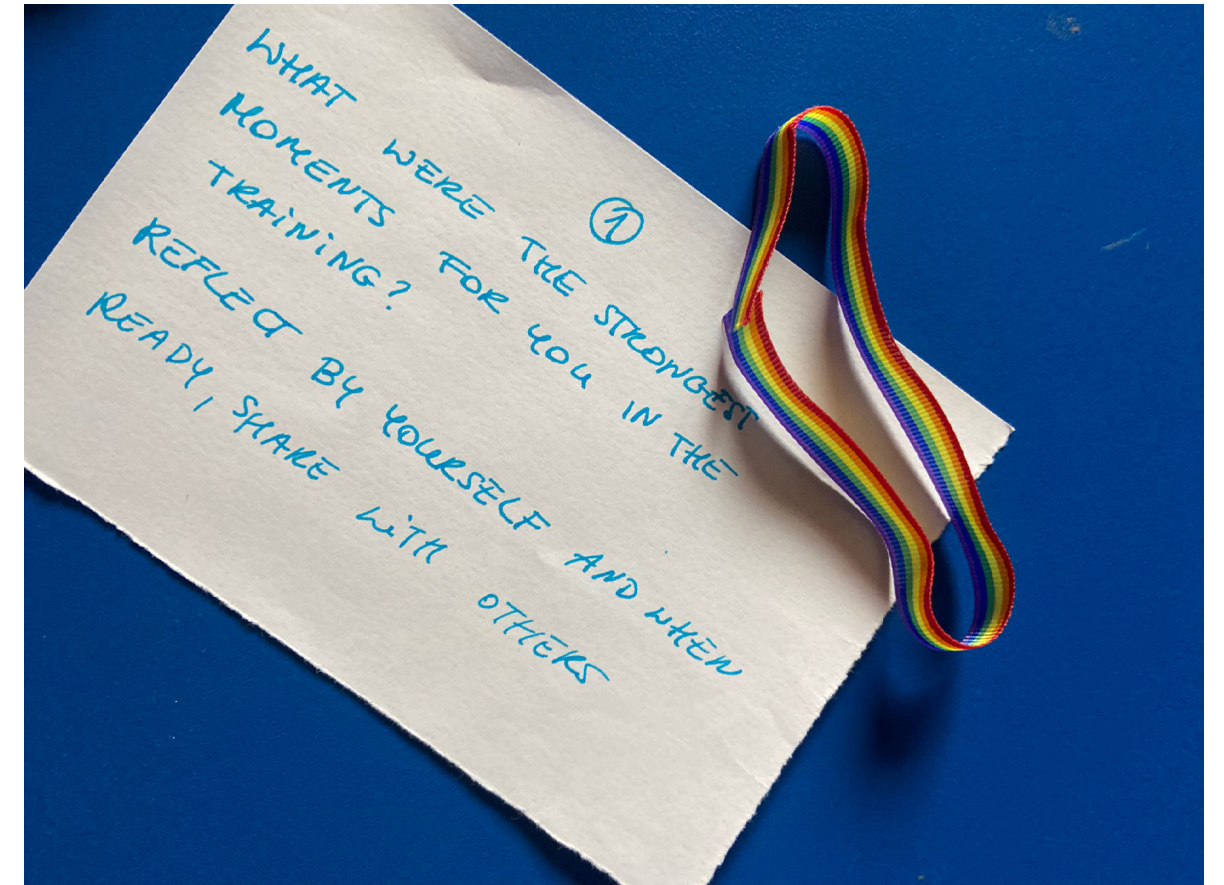


Resilience in youth work

Resilience in Youth Work is a training course integrating methods from resilience building and queer youth work to address challenges faced by young queer individuals. The program focuses on equipping youth workers with innovative methodologies to enhance youths' ability to adapt to adversity and promote personal growth. Through artistic expression and exploration of mindfulness, compassion, and nature-based methods, participants will gain skills to prevent burnout and create sustainable paths for themselves and their communities.

Rainbow Peer Forces

Rainbow Peer Forces aims to create a network of LGBTQIA+ youth who will become educators within their own community through peer education, an educational approach where knowledge and experiences are shared among individuals of similar age or situation to promote learning and exchange of information in a collaborative and efficient manner.



we've talked here

Academia:

- West University of Timișoara - Faculty of Sociology - gender sociology course;
- West University of Timișoara - Faculty of Sociology - Different Week („Săptămâna altfel,,).

Non-profit:

- Arad County Council of Students - inclusion and awareness workshop within the project “United through Diversity”;
- European Summit of Youth from Rural Areas - workshop on safe spaces and storytelling;
- Youth Summit from Rural Areas - workshop on safe spaces and storytelling;
- International Student Week in Timișoara - mentorship on inclusion topics
- The Forum of Student Organizations in Romania - presentation on safe spaces;
- West Summer University - 2 workshops on bullying;
- Accept project - we were living library for a training for police officers and prosecutors

Other:

- IGPR (General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police) project - supported presentation on microaggressions (*Integrated Action project to combat crimes with a discriminatory mobile, especially those directed against Roma communities, and ensure a high standard of police service - PDP3, funded through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021*)



4. comm unity work

pridetm center

We understand how important a sense of belonging is, and we know how hard it is to find people who truly understand you.

The PrideTM Center is a physical space in Timișoara that serves as our office, but more importantly, as a meeting space for the LGBTQIA+ community in Timișoara.

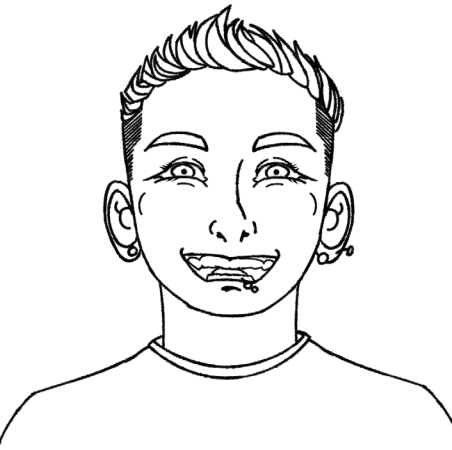
We organize weekly meetings, monthly workshops, and other related events such as book clubs. Additionally, we offer counseling services, including reimbursed sessions with therapists, peer-to-peer counseling, and support for individuals transitioning.

In 2021, we opened the first LGBTQIA+ community center in the west of the country, where we organized over 150 community meetings and more than 45 educational workshops.



5.
the
team

executive team



Andre Rădulescu
Founder and President of Identity.Education



Lexi Caraman
Communication Coordinator



Iulia Răileanu
Project Manager



Lia Burg
Community Manager



Andrea Hermann
Project Manager



Andrea Călinescu
Educational Program Coordinator



Andreea Coman
Research Program Coordinator

volunteers



Sofia



Gabriel



Oana



Marius



Karina



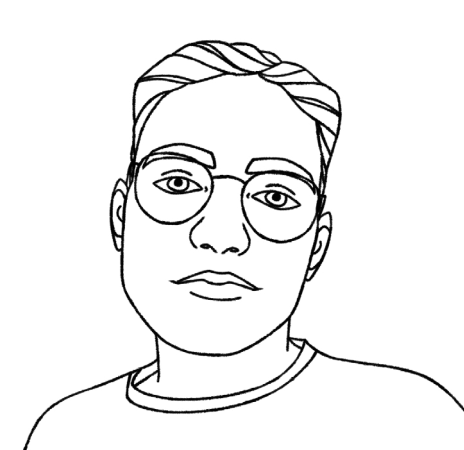
Georgiana



Diana C



Deiu



Ciel



Ana Maria



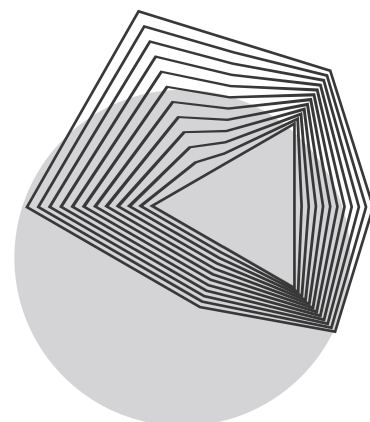
Ivan



Karla



Antonio



Dima



Mars



Paul

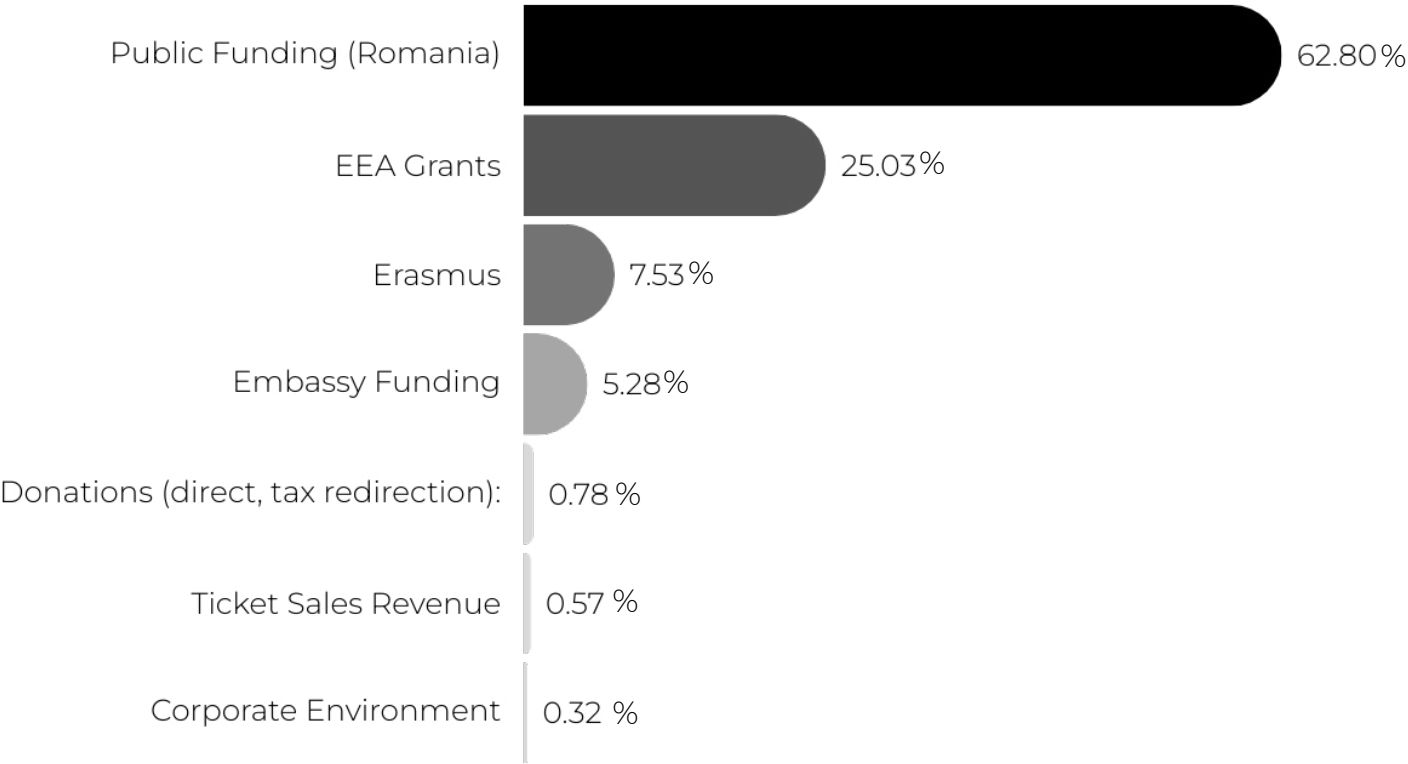


Yuna

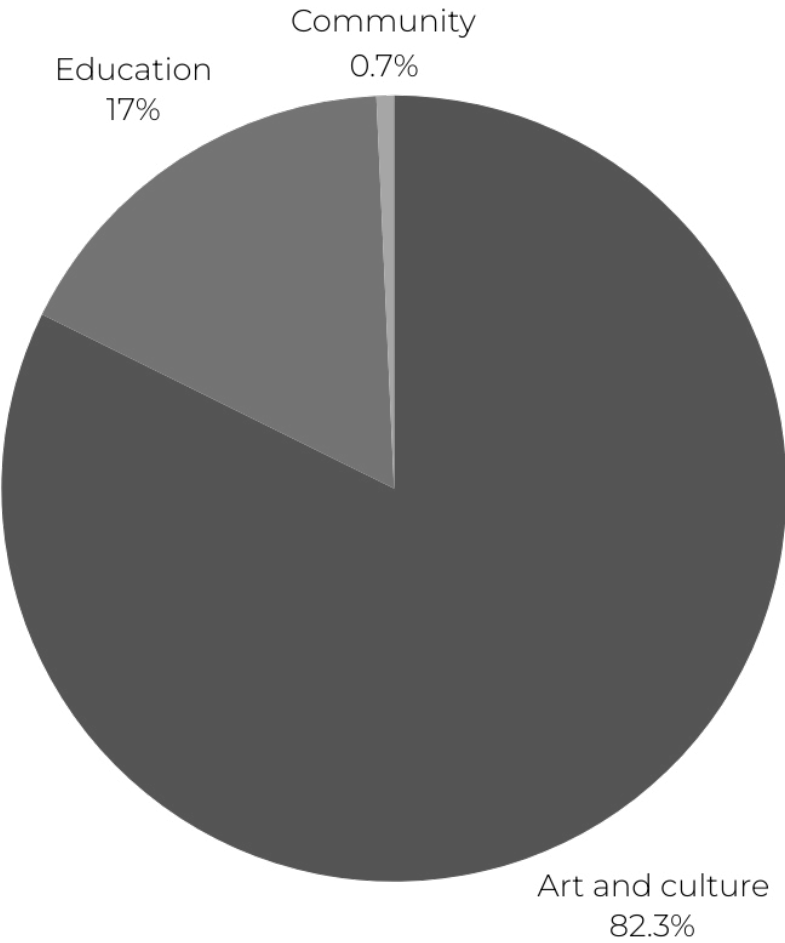


6. finan ces

Incomes 2023



Expenses 2023



7. our part ners

Strategical

Accept
Ark Oradea
Asociația pentru Dezvoltare Activă
Asociația GoFree
eQuiVox
HLGBTQI United
Liga AC
Mozaic
Pride România
RiseOUT
SCORA
SSMT
Transcore



Funders

Active Citizens Fund România
Centrul de Proiecte Timișoara
Embassy of Ireland in Romania
British Embassy Bucharest
Embassy of the Netherlands in Romania



Collaborators

ambasada
PLAI
Indecis
British Council Romania
FITT
French Institute in Timișoara
German State Theatre Timișoara
The “Csiky Gergely” Hungarian State Theatre in Timișoara



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