

Open World Alumni

CĂTĂLIN ZAMAN

Romanian Language Teacher

”Prof. Constantin Dincă” Secondary School, Buzău

Mental Health & Counseling
Baltimore, MD
October 2022



Cătălin is a teacher in his home village and the manager of the local school. His priority is providing children from the countryside access to quality education. Cătălin has conducted a lot of volunteering activities for the students to learn, to discover themselves, to believe in their power to make it, to spread their wings.

He is an active, incredibly involved member of his community and together with the villagers and the local and national authorities they would like to increase and better the school Cătălin manages, becoming reference point for the potential of rural education in Romania.



”Open World is a useful program that helps us discover America, I think the main dream of every human.”



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OANA TOMPOȘ

Director

"George Coșbuc" Secondary
School, Sighetu Marmăției

Mental Health & Counseling
Baltimore, MD
October 2022



Oana has been working in education for over 25 years. Since 2012, she is the director of the secondary school "George Coșbuc". She has as a priority the equal opportunities of children, enrolling children with disabilities or from disadvantaged families. She puts great emphasis on multicultural development. Recently she has included her school in a partnership with Transylvania College in Cluj and Mind Education, a joint project called "School of trust", which aims to emotionally develop the teaching staff, as well as the students' parents.



"I have acquired an enormous amount of information, a special experience lived with my colleagues in the delegation. The program was very well thought out, with rich activities and appropriate to the theme of the program, and the hosts were chosen very well. Thank you American Council Romania. Now I feel that I have a different vision about how to relate on an individual and collective level, about how to organize the activity of a manager, but also as a professor."



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BOGDAN RAȚIU

Romanian Language Teacher

”Bolyai Farkas” High School, Târgu Mureș

Mental Health & Counseling
Baltimore, MD
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Bogdan Rațiu was awarded (through MERITO project) for the quality of Education he cultivates for his students and the outstanding results in the academic and extracurricular initiatives.

Bogdan is dedicated to non-formal education, developing reading skills and teaching students speakers of another language, for whom Romanian is their second language. Social integration for disadvantaged children is another focus, opening new horizons of informal learning. Bogdan participated in over 20 as courses, workshops and webinars on literacy topics, through which he shared his practices and increased the level of teaching for the participants.

”It’s an experience that teaches you to think differently when you return back to Romania. You have the opportunity to analyze the positive or negative aspects of another system, you are given the opportunity to understand how another system works and to constantly learn something new. It was an incredible experience both personally and professionally.”



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TATIANA CAUNI

Romanian Language Teacher

"Emil Racoviță" Theoretical High School, Baia Mare

Mental Health & Counseling
Baltimore, MD
October 2022



In the high school where Tatiana teaches there are many Ukrainian children. Tatiana's father is Ukrainian, so she felt from the first moment that she had to be part of the refugee integration. Because of this, she organized school classes for her students (there are also Ukrainian teenagers in her class) in order to be able to cope emotionally, and to understand what was going on. In order to develop empathy and compassion, Tatiana organized volunteer campaigns for refugees together with parents and students.



"From this experience, I bring home notions about courses for students through which they learn what the state means, public policies; well-designed mentoring - for students, teachers, directors who must be educated how to work with trauma, burnout, anger, stress, frustration (valid for students and teachers, equally). The Open World experience makes me responsible and makes me more empathetic to the needs of the teenagers I work with. Thanks!"



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CĂTĂLINA POPA

Romanian Language Teacher

“Vasile Alecsandri” National High School, Galați

Mental Health & Counseling
Baltimore, MD
October 2022



Cătălina became a MERITO teacher in 2016 and after a few months, she received The National Order of Merit from The President of Romania.

Later on, she started training teachers and presenting innovative teaching methods that visibly improved students' 21st Century skills, her main purpose being to blend non-formal and formal methods in order to better answer students' needs. She understood the importance of mental health, inner strength and emotional intelligence and that's why she started a series of webinars called MindEd.

"It was a complete learning experience, transformative even, both on a human and professional level. I think that, for now, the only way to improve the Romanian education system is by taking over the models that work in other countries. The Open World program revealed to us such a system, the American one, from which we can borrow a number of components. Also, the resources that were offered to us are very useful and can be applied in Romania. I can't wait to get started!"



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