

Open World Alumni

MATEI SUMBASACU

Chairman & Founder

Re:Rise, Prahova

Disaster Response
Durham, NH
November 2022

Matei is one of the Romanian leaders in seismic resilience. The organization he has founded (Re:Rise) is the first organization that deals with community preparedness for seismic disasters. Among the projects of Re:Rise - awareness campaigns, public advocacy, community preparedness education, etc.

Matei's main focus is disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Disasters are, by definition, extraordinary events that often surpass the response capacity of any given community or country. This is why Matei believes networking and coordination on a global scale are key elements for the world of tomorrow in terms of disaster response - he considers we need to strengthen our ties internationally, increase the cohesion of our communities and learn to work together to overcome the impacts of disasters.

"It was an intense experience - an encounter with American culture and the way of administrative and community organization there. I return home with many ideas, with a changed opinion about what a community means and with some practical things that I will apply in my work."



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IOANA DĂRĂMUȘ

Executive Director

SMURD Foundation, Bucharest

**Disaster Response
Durham, NH
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Ioana has more than 20 years experience in the field of emergency services development in Romania, being part of their evolution from a rudimentary system to a system that is admired by other European countries in terms of efficiency and organization. emergency services in Romania started developing in the 2000s , and Ioana has contributed to the development and implementation of a well-rounded emergency services system in all 42 counties of Romania. From development of Emergency Departments at each major hospital, to the implementation of the European Emergency line 112, as well as expansion of SMURD teams in all counties (a joint venture between hospital and firefighters allowing a faster and more professional response to emergencies, especially medical one), legislation development, organization and much more.

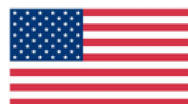
"An interesting, interactive program, in which we learnt new things and new ways of acting for our professional activity."



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DANIELA BĂJA

Civic Society Officer

**Emergency Situations Department,
Bucharest**

**Disaster Response
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Daniela distinguished herself through the intense activity she carried out within the National Directorate for Coordination and Leadership of Intervention in the context of managing the flow of refugees generated by the Russian military aggression in Ukraine. She connected both the public authorities, but also the non-governmental organizations on the issue of refugees from Ukraine.



"The exchange of experiences, the understanding of politics, public administration, economy and American society, - Open World Program helps you understand all of these. Beyond the purpose of the Program to facilitate exchanges of professional experience, on topics of interest, it also offers the opportunity to integrate, for a short period of time, into the American society, to see how people work, socialize and live in small communities. The program offers a unique perspective on the American culture and society."



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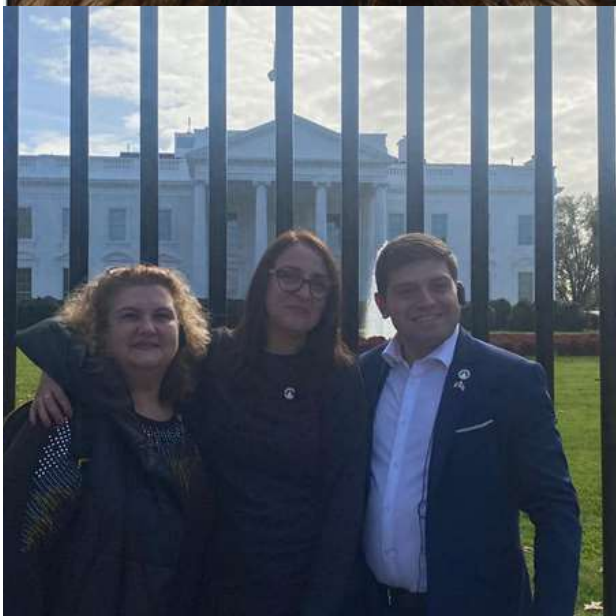


RALUCA POPESCU

Chief Accountant, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert

**Center for Police and Health Services,
Bucharest**

**Disaster Response
Durham, NH
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Raluca is a senior expert in project implementation and she has been involved in development and implementation of health program since 2007, joining the Foundation Center for Health Policies and Services. She has been involved in both project development, especially budgeting, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of health programs both nationally and internationally.



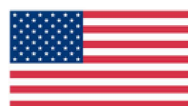
"I enrolled in this program with the hope of learning something new, something practical, which will help me in the future, both in my career and in my personal development. It is the first time I took part in such a program and my expectations were far exceeded. I met a team of professional, empathetic and very well organized people. The dynamics of the group and the whole experience were "WOW!" Thank you for the opportunity to be selected in this program."



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VICTOR JUGĂNARU

Doctor & Coordinator

Public Health Department Bucharest

**Disaster Response
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The professional activity of Victor had as a reference point the management of the health crisis caused by SARS-CoV 2, having as main objective the limitation of the effects of the COVID-19 disease, respectively the keeping under control of its spread, the control of contagiousness and the improvement of the public health by taking the isolation and quarantine measures according to the government decisions. In this regard, he and the entire team have quickly implemented (a few days) an integrated IT platform that represents the database of patients infected with Covid-19, in order to facilitate the necessary communication between the patient, the testing centers, the ambulance services and the hospital units.

testimonial



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