



## Partner organisation

PIC	939983448
OID	E10124610
Full legal name (National Language)	Asociația Secular-Umanistă din România
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Asociația Secular-Umanistă din România
Address	Str. Ajustorului nr 6, bl. C3, sc. 1, et 1, ap. 8, București
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## Profile

Type of organization	Non-governmental
Is the partner organization a public body?	no
Is the partner organization a non-profit?	yes

## Accreditation

Has the organization received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?

Accreditation type	Accreditation reference

**BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE****Please briefly present your organization**

The Secular-Humanist Association of Romania is a non-profit, independent and non-governmental association founded in March 2010, with the headquarter in Bucharest, Romania. From its foundation, the association has aimed to popularize scientific education and critical thinking among the general public. Therefore, its **main objective** is to encourage and facilitate the dialogue between scientists and the general public, especially the young public, through conferences, debates, informal activities to popularize science.

The association advocates for:

- Promoting science and culture;
- Promoting critical thinking and free thinking;
- Promoting a modern education, which can stimulate the thinking autonomy of children and young people;
- Promoting a democratic political framework and active citizenship;
- Defending the freedom of expression as a fundamental right of the human being;
- Promoting humanistic ethical principles and secularism.

During all our projects, we facilitate the dialogue between researchers and specialists within various fields of science and the general public. Through campaigns and science promotion projects, the association aspires to contribute to the education of a future generation that is greedy for knowledge, skeptical against unsubstantiated allegations, and especially well prepared on both personal and professional levels.

**What are the activities and experience of your organisation in the areas relevant for this application?**

During the 10 years of activity so far, the association has carried out numerous educational projects to popularize the science and critical thinking.

Our annual educational projects are:

**"Bucharest Science Festival"** ([www.bucharestsciencefestival.ro](http://www.bucharestsciencefestival.ro)) is an annual project organized in collaboration with Parentime Center every September, which has reached its 7th edition in 2019. The project is addressed to the general public and includes conferences, screenings of documentary films, exhibitions, workshops, experiments and debates on scientific topics. From 2015 we extended our work area to other cities like Timisoara, Piatra Neamt, Adjud where we organized "Science Days".

The **"Science Calendar"** ([www.calendarstiintific.ro](http://www.calendarstiintific.ro)), first developed by the association in 2010 with the aim to popularize the researchers and the scientific discoveries that have improved our lives. For each day of the year, the calendar mentions an important scientific milestone achieved or a personality born on that day. Over 80,000 copies have been distributed free of charge to schools in the past years, and thousands more calendars have reached people interested in knowledge.

**"Curiosity Summer School"**, a free science summer school for middle-school pupils in partnership with the Children's Palace in Piatra Neamt ([www.scoalacuriosilor.ro](http://www.scoalacuriosilor.ro)), organized annually since 2016. In the four editions so far, a total of 270 middle-school pupils participated in free workshops, courses and interactive experiments in various fields of science. The activities were supported by science students, science specialists and researchers, but also by secondary-school and university professors. 80 high-school students from Piatra Neamt participated as volunteers in organizing and monitoring the activities, and 30 other scientific researchers, students with outstanding results and teachers from all over the country participated as trainers and educators.

**"The School Science Fair"** (since 2018, in Bucharest), aims to popularize science among pupils and students through experiments and demonstrations that illustrate topics from the science school curricula.

„**Darwin Day**”(2012-2015), **"Evolution Days"** (since 2016, in Bucharest) and „**Darwin Weekend at Coresi**” (in the city of Braşov) are projects which popularize evolutionary biology among the general public through interactive presentations, conferences, debates and workshops.

We also organize regular public and cultural events on various occasions, such as:

The „**Dialogue Evenings**” is a periodic, free entry event, organized in partnership with the Romanian Humanist Association, in Bucharest, since 2018. „Dialogue evenings” are recurring meetings where we try to promote interaction between people with different opinions on controversial topics, with the hope that this way we will contribute to more tolerance and less ideological polarization. Discussions are informal and do not require in-depth prior knowledge from the public. The objectives of the project are: promoting social tolerance, humanitarian values and interests in society; contributing to the civic education of the population; defending the civil rights and interests of the disadvantaged parts of the society.

„**Science at feminine**” (2019) an open discussion about how women influence the scientific world, their achievements and the benefits of encouraging diversity.

The conference **"Climate change: causes, effects and solutions"**, organized for the first time in 2019, in partnership with Nod Makerspace and Romanian Humanist Association, with the support of Human-Etisk Forbund from Norway. It is a one-day event, organized on Earth Day. The first edition was attended by specialists from various fields, from climatologists and biologists to economists and political scientists. They discussed how climate change affects the Romanian society, but also about the measures that can be taken at personal and institutional levels.

„**Skills for Tomorrow: coworking with AI**” is a conference first organized during Bucharest Tech Week (May 2019).

„**Technology for a changing world**” is an event first organized in July 2019, which took place within the CAMPUS Research Center of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest and included a guided tour of institution's laboratories.

„**From Moon to Mars and beyond!**” was an event organized in July 2019 to celebrate 50 years since the first astronauts descended on the surface of the Moon.

„**Technologies of the future - from SF to reality**” (2018, Bucharest), an event facilitating the dialogue between the community of scientists and the general public regarding artificial intelligence, robotics, the future of the space industry, the influence of SF books on researchers' lives.

„**Space Odyssey in Romania**” (2018, Bucharest), an event popularizing astronomy through presentations, interactive conferences and debates with guests from among specialists and scientists.



## What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

**Toma Pătrașcu** (Eng., MSc., MBA) is the President of the Association and marketing and communications professional with a background in electronics, computers and telecommunications engineering. With an engineering degree from Bucharest Polytechnics and an MBA from the Open University UK, he has extensive experience in organizing science outreach programmes and he is the founder and director of Bucharest Science Festival, the main Romanian science outreach event. Mr. Pătrașcu is active in coordinating an informal network of scientists, teachers, museographers and journalists committed to the popularization of science. As such, he designs and oversees the implementation of a wide host of outreach events, ranging from hands on workshops to fully fledged science festivals. A public speaker and a certified trainer, he delivers courses on science communication and history of science to various audiences. He is also a regular contributor to one of the main Romanian news outlets, with numerous opinion pieces on education (<http://www.contributors.ro/author/alexandru-toma-patrascu>).

**Anca Bontaș** is Vicepresident of the Association, Biology teacher and coordinator of multiple science-related educational activities. During the years, she has been involved in numerous educational projects to promote science, both as initiator and in partnership with other institutions. She participated with her students in numerous events organized by the Secular-Humanist Association of Romania, organized Science Fairs - scientific experiments competition and the Calypso Summer Club, participated in the School of Science Fair, in the Bucharest Science Festival, as well as in several science book launches in partnership with Humanitas Bookstore. An avid popularizer of science and critical thinking among the general public, Anca Bontaș has been actively involved in conferences, thematic workshops, presentations and radio programs, organized by the Secular- Humanist Association of Romania in partnership with different institutions. To name just a few: Evolution Days conference series, in partnership with Humanitas Bookstore, Radio Romania Cultural and the National Museum of Natural History „Grigore Antipa”; science promotion conferences in partnership with Humanitas and Herald Publishers; science book launches organized at book fairs. At the same time as a teacher, she was also involved in museum education activities at the National Museum of Natural History Grigore Antipa, where she conducted thematic guides, educational workshops, organized conferences for children and adults, and wrote articles and various materials to promote science in the online environment.

**Patricia Fechet** is Vicepresident of the Association, translator and coordinator of science educational projects. She has a bachelor’s degree in Language and Literature. Member of the Romanian Secular-Humanist Association since 2013, she got involved as volunteer in various projects promoting science and critical thinking among youth. During her project management activity in the association, she concluded partnerships with multiple NGOs, private and public entities, also facilitated collaborations with numerous scientists, researchers, professors and students with great academic achievements.

**Monica Belitoiu** is the Executive Director of the Association, communication specialist and project manager. During the 10 years pf membership in the association, she got involved both as volunteer and coordinator in numerous activities such as: Bucharest Science Festival, science summer schools, critical thinking workshops, conferences, book releases. She developed partnerships with private and public entities, schools, maintained the relation with the sponsors.

The organization also has members and volunteers qualified and well trained in different topics such as: various scientific fields with experience in research, teaching and educational activities, psychology, personal development, human rights education, conflict management, organizational management, social inclusion.

### Legal representative

Title

Mr

Gender

Male



# Erasmus+

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## Contact person

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**OTHER COMMUNITY FUNDING:** Please give information about any type of European Union grant your organisation/group has received/applied for in the twelve months preceding this application

EU programme	Year	Title	Project n°	Applicant name	Role
Erasmus+ Programme	2022	SCIENCIVICUS – Active citizenship through science education	KA105-3DC6A23B	Secular-Humanist Association of Romania	Applicant
Horizon 2020 – Science with and for society	2021-2023	TechEthos (Ethics for Technologies with High Socio-Economic Impact)	-	AIT – Austrian Institute of Technology (AUSTRIA)	Third-party partner
Horizon 2020 – Open schooling and collaboration on science education	2020-2023	Make it Open	-	Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem (BSMJ) (ISRAEL)	Third-party partner
Erasmus+ Programme	2023-2024	Training course for an integrated approach on science and human rights education	KA210-YOU-000097096	Secular-Humanist Association of Romania	Applicant



# Erasmus+

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)	2024-2027	V.O.I.C.E. (Vision, Opportunity, Inclusion, Community, Equality)	-	Centre social Jean Ferrat (FRANCE)	Partner
Erasmus+ Programme	2023-2025	Shadow Theater for Social Change	2023-3-BG01-KA153-YOU-000171811	Values, Virtues, Integrity Foundation (BULGARIA)	Partner
Erasmus+ Programme	2024-2026	MANAGING THE POLARITIES OF DEMOCRACY - a key to mature youth participation in EU civil and political processes	2024-1-BG01-KA153-YOU-000239983	Values, Virtues, Integrity Foundation (BULGARIA)	Partner

