



CLOSE TO YOU

SECTOR

Social economy

COUNTRY

Romania

DURATION

2008-present

FUNDING

Total budget: €900,000

EU: €550,000

Private: €150,000

Reinvested profit:

€200,000

PARTNERS

Motivation Foundation, General Department of Social Assistance and Child Protection (Iasi), National Agency for People with Disabilities

CONTACT

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ensie
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES

SUMMARY

Two groups that experience excessive barriers in accessing the labour market are youths and people with disabilities. Finding work is twice as hard for people who fall into both of these groups.

The Close to You foundation runs a number of day centres for young people; by helping them to receive both professional and social education, their chances for integration are increased.

Beyond training, Close to You has also founded a work integration social enterprise that has so far helped more than 40 disadvantaged people enter paid employment. It offers recruitment services, counselling and professional orientation for young people, especially those with disabilities.

Approximately 500 young people obtained qualifications within sheltered workshops run by the foundation in areas such as tailoring, manual book-binding, and arts and crafts.

"I am a young man with a disability. Thanks to the income I make from my work as a manual book-binder and with support from the foundation, I left the orphanage I was living in. Now I am married, independent and I have a job I love."

- Social enterprise employee