



# THE RESILIENCE LABORATORY

IMAGINATION

CLOSING SPACE

ALLIES

PROPAGANDA

INNOVATION

MIGRATION

FLEXIBILITY

NATURAL DISASTERS

INNER STRENGTH

TERRORISM

FUTURE

FEAR

COLLABORATION

**RESILIENCE & DIALOGUE**  
**BUCHAREST, APRIL 19-20, 2018**



ASOCIAȚIA PENTRU  
RELAȚII COMUNITARE



EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
INITIATIVE

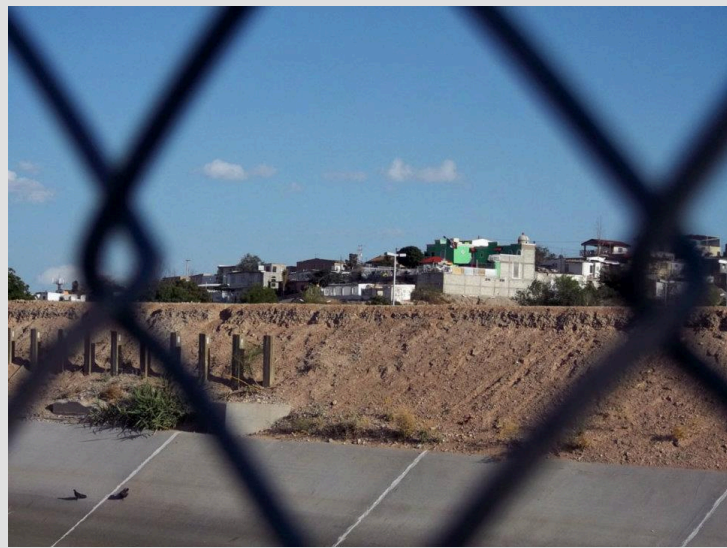
## WHY talk about resilience?

Why is it important to be resilient?

Organizations in general and community foundations in particular are challenged to be able to read a very fluid & traumatic social dynamics, anticipate how this is going to impact their work and rapidly redesign their strategies accordingly.

In the nowadays polarized society, community foundations, as pro-social expressions of citizens for citizens, face increased diversity and polarization that impacts their local donors, supporters, volunteers, board members, local partners and community civic groups. This poses a new challenge to any civic engagement on how to steer in these waters wisely and still catalyze the civic energy for the benefit and positive vision of the community.

Understanding the trends, getting better equipped for the challenges of the future, being ready to read the signs of a “crisis” and quickly recover from hard times are some of the topics to reflect on.



WHAT is resilience? What needs to be done in order to evaluate and improve resilience?

**Resilience & Dialogue meeting** is part of series of events that will explore the concept of resilience, starting from the personal level (how can people become more resilient human beings) to the organizational level and then to the community level – how can communities create space for innovation and progress, how can they anticipate negative trends and events, and how can they develop inner ability to reinvent themselves.

There are many definitions of the term resilience. The general definition revolves around the idea that the community resilience is the ability of a community to withstand and quickly recover from difficult situations and hard times. The resilience of a community is demonstrated in case of preparing and reacting to natural disasters (see Miami or New Orleans), to political hardship (Romania in the last years has been an example of resisting political pressure with street the protests), to economic crises or societal pressures (refugee integration) or other issues with which a community confronts.

A community can train and increase its resilience, but in order to do so it needs to be able to asses its capacity of resilience and to open a space for dialogue on the topic.

WHO: Asociația pentru Relații  
Comunitare - ARC in partnership  
with European Community  
Foundation Initiative - ECFI

WHEN & WHERE:

**First meeting:** April 18-20 2018,  
Bucharest-Mogoșoaia

**Second meeting:** June or August  
2018, location TBD



In line with the latest international developments, we aim to create a critical thinking capsule that asks powerful questions, comes up with creative answers and is able to forecast trends. The Resilience Laboratory aims to explore this topic that is central in understanding communities in the context of the European communities and the community foundations.

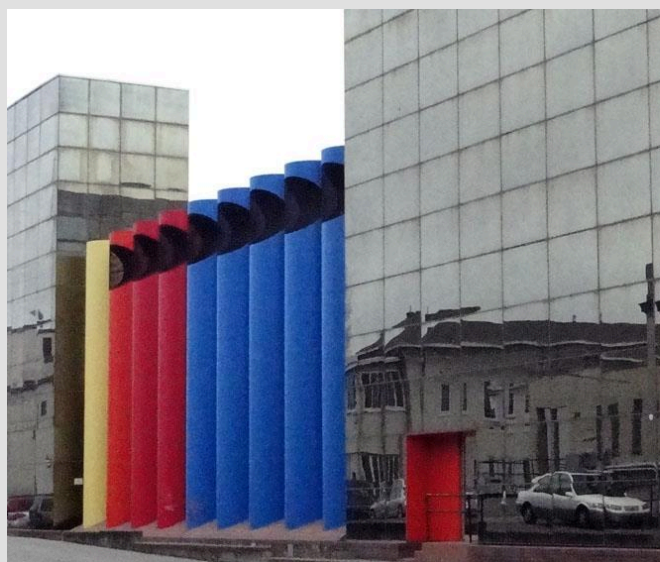
The laboratory on resilience is designed as a reflection space. The laboratory will be launched with an event that will take place in Bucharest, April 19-20. This will be the first in a series of events dedicated to the theme of resilience. The events will focus on sharing experiences and creating space for innovative approaches.

The events will target various groups of people: people from community foundations in Romania & Europe and people from outside the community foundation movement who are interested in the topic of resilience from various fields: academia, non profit, business, arts & culture, architecture, communication.

We propose a co-designed learning experience that puts more practitioners together towards creating models that can be used and adapted by various communities. The theoretical assumptions will be tested on communities that are already formed and need to evaluate and increase their resilience.

The outputs and the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting are still subject of discussion. Given the fact that the participants have their own theories on resilience, we want to make sure we encapsulate their experience in the design of the event. At this moment we aim to come up with one or a few theoretical/action models of resilience that could be adapted by various communities around Europe and a practical tool that would help communities to evaluate and increase their resilience.

The second meeting of the Laboratory will be designed based on the learning from the first meeting, but they will also be hosted by grantees of a Romanian CF that have succeeded to gather a community around them.





**Day 0 – April 18<sup>th</sup>** will host a welcome dinner for the participants who arrive during this day.

**Day 1 - April 19<sup>th</sup>** will be for a smaller group (25 people who will consist of approximately 7 Romanian CFs representatives, 9 European CFs, 9 Romanian and foreign experts and resource persons) that will go from their own definitions of the term resilience to possible theoretical/action models applied on the community experience. The participants will work individually and in groups. The meeting will be held at Green Mogo, a green building that is a space dedicated to dialogue and solutions for anyone who chooses a low-impact lifestyle.

**Day 2 - April 20<sup>th</sup>** will open to a bigger audience (20-25 people from the first day + 35 other people from the local community). The meeting will take place in an old cotton factory that in the last few years has been reinvented by a group of creative people. The theories and models elaborated in the first day will be tested in conversation with the small community that was formed in the area of this old factory and continuously redesigns the space and the neighborhood around it.

Both spaces that will host the event are grantees of **Bucharest CF**, that have invested in these initiatives in the beginning of their existence, helping the projects grow and the communities to aggregate around them.

