

VISIT TO PUIU AND DORINA, Arad Romania
30 August to 1 September 2010

Elaine and I spent 3 days with Puiu and Dorina after Adrian Ion and Nicole's wedding in Sibiu.

Elaine spent much of the time with Dorina at her counselling centre. Bob joined Puiu on his visits to local activities.

Puiu and Dorina have now moved on from the death of their son but his parents are still struggling.

The office in Arad now has 6 staff and all the space is used by Pro Prietenia's activities having taken over the visitor accommodation.

Puiu has appointed Christina as Executive Director in recognition of her skills and to demonstrate that Pro Prietenia is now much more than Puiu but is a real team organisation. Funding the office and its activities has led Puiu to broaden and deepen his skills and contacts to provide regular and reliable finance. He is now used by Procter and Gamble as their agent to store and distribute their surplus product to all charities in Romania. To fund this, Romanian legislation allows Puiu to sell up to 20% of the goods shipped to him. In his collaboration with Procter and Gamble he recognises the importance of helping as many NGO's and people as possible as well as promoting the firm's image.

In addition using his project management and grant application skills he is acting as a consultant for sustainable energy projects so ensuring that Romania delivers this important commitment on behalf of the EU.

We found Puiu and Dorina comfortable in themselves and whilst we were there he was pleased to receive an invitation to a conference in Brussels later this year. He plans to drive to Brussels and use the trip as an opportunity to visit friends and enjoy a break from their busy activities in Arad.

Bob Tilley
17 September 2010