

**“Come to the library, Internet access is free and a lot of surprises are there just for you”,  
say librarians from Vâlcea**

**Violeta Perian has been a librarian in Ocnele Mari for 38 years. She still has one year to go before she retires, but nothing could prevent her from being the first to open a library that was modernised under the Biblionet programme. Surrounded by colleagues from the county, local officials and representatives from the Ministry of Culture, people from IREX and other partners, Mr. Perian showed everybody how it was to be passionate and enthusiastic about your own profession and to leave something behind you.**

Biblionet Director Paul Baran gave the opening speech and explained that “A lot of people have asked why libraries. It’s simple, it’s all about librarians. They are servants of information, guides of the dreams, and are at everybody’s disposal. So the success of the programme relies on librarians, and I would like to thank them all for their effort.”

Biblionet would have never been possible unless local authorities had involved themselves, and the President of Vâlcea County Council, Mr. Ion Cîlea, Ph.D Engineer, explained the role that this institution had played along that line: “I lobbied this programme a lot together with library managers, and our mayors are not one of those who turn their backs on libraries. Every community in our county hires a full-time librarian and I believe that this programme fits them like a glove, because they were probably tired of handling books only.”

Mayor of Ocnele Mari, Mr. Petre Iordache, a supporter of the library project, said that: “We believe that from now on some major tasks will fall upon the hands of local communities, because we want young people to have more access to the libraries, so librarians will work in two shifts. We invested 50,000 lei to modernize and redecorate this building, because that was the first condition the municipality had to meet before being accepted in the Biblionet programme. We promised we’d do that, and we kept our promise, so today we’re here to cut the ribbon.”

”I believe that the human resource has been the most important one in this programme. Owning a computer is not enough, we need to know how to use it. And hardware is not the important resource, but the software, meaning that it is not the screen that matters, but the person in front of it”, said the representative of the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Alexandru Bălăşescu.

Melinda Bedo, who coordinates Biblionet in Harghita County, tested the Skype communication with the County Library in Miercurea Ciuc, in preparation for the formal opening of the library in Lunca de Jos in early December.

103 computers worth 194,175.16 lei were donated in Vâlcea County, as part of an investment totalling 420,000 lei. Several communities signed up for the programme: Băbeni, Călimăneşti, Cernișoara, Dăești, Diculești, Glăvile, Grădiștea, Horezu, Muereasca, Nicolae Bălcescu, Ocnele Mari, Pietrari, Popești, Scundu, Șirineasa, Stănești, Tetoiu, Tomșani, Vaideeni and Voineasa.

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