

Working in Partnership

The Centre for Open Distance Education for the Civil Society (CODECS)



The Open
University

The Partner

Following initial contact in 1991 between The Open University (OU) and representatives of the University of Bucharest, a joint stock company operating in association with the University of Bucharest was formed in 1993 under the name of The Centre for Open Distance Education for the Civil Society CODECS.



CODECS functions as a private organisation delivering Open University Business School programmes to fulfil the requirements of the evolving Romanian economy for skilled managerial staff. As well as developing its partnership with the OU, CODECS has grown and diversified its activities. In 1997, CODECS founded the Training and Consulting Department as a means to offer solutions to its clients' problems and to meet the personal training and development needs of various organisations. CODECS also offers consultancy services, travel and publishing services.

The Project

In 1993 the first group of 26 CODECS' students studied an English language version of The Open University Business School's course The Effective Manager. Financial assistance from the UK Government was available in the form of grants from the Know How Fund to assist the transfer of management knowledge to the former Eastern bloc countries. These students then became the initial tutors and managers of CODECS. The Effective Manager was subsequently translated into Romanian during 1993/4, soon followed by the remaining courses of the highly regarded Open University Business School Professional Certificate and Diploma in Management programmes, which are offered through CODECS' network of 12 study centres.

From May 1999, CODECS began acting as agents for delivery of The Open University Business School's Masters of Business Administration (MBA), presented in English. Locally appointed tutors employed by CODECS teach Stage 1 and OU tutors, who fly in from the UK and Europe, teach Stage 2. Tutorials are held in Bucharest and students attend Residential Schools in the UK, Ireland or Europe. CODECS also offers the Postgraduate Project Management course under a licensing agreement with The Open University.

The Aim

To provide a high quality and internationally recognised programme of management education for active managers in the emerging free market economy.

The Benefits

Academic and administrative experience has been built up through the development of a highly successful partnership and through diversified teaching and educational opportunities. Since 1993, CODECS has had approx. 53,000 student registrations on OU courses, equating to approx. 15,000 students and 200 MBA alumni.

Contact

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