



# Pelunca

## ON THE FIELD



**Hallo everybody.**  
**This time I'm writing our newsletter from Belgium!**

### Kids, cofee en supernanny's

I placed myself nicely at the table in the Soetaert residence, with a good cup of coffee prepared by our precious hosts.

Such a blessing we can stay here every time we're in Belgium. Also our children enjoy it here so much. With the everyday routine of feeding all the animals, playing with the grandchildren, and they really enjoy the attention of super nanny Joshua



### Summer update

Now, let's go back first to the last period in Romania. As usual the months July and august were again very busy with all the visitors but at the same time we really enjoyed their company. We worked so much but took also some days off to just relax and enjoy each other and a fresh made fruit drink. Always nice being able to divide our work a bit, being able to do more in a short period, to talk in our own language, to share our hearts, having fun, ... What a blessing.

Off course it's also very nice again when this period is over and we're back to our 'normal' way of life. Again a little more time with just the family. Although our work still continues at full power.



#### Support project PeLunca

IBAN: BE29 1030 4919 8064

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: [www.paypal.me/pelunca](http://www.paypal.me/pelunca)

#### Support familie Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

Always mention: "familie Priem"

#### Tijs, Jessica and Kids

[www.pelunca.be](http://www.pelunca.be)

[tijssjessicapriem@pelunca.be](mailto:tijssjessicapriem@pelunca.be)

[thuisfront@pelunca.be](mailto:thuisfront@pelunca.be)

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## Stones, windows, tiles...

So we are very busy with the construction of two houses in Romos. Thanks to the mayor we received a piece of land to build on, we could go to the mountains to collect all the wood we need to construct the roof and we received sand to make the cement.

Calin, a Roma friend, immediately offered us his services. He even wanted to help us for free cuz he has such a warm heart for us and our project. We accepted his offer but decided to pay him anyway cuz even he and his family have big needs. Not only does he take all the responsibility during the construction works, also did he find BCA-bricks at half price, went with us to the mayor, ...

Through Jan and Gerry, a Dutch couple, we received four windows and when we get home we can pick up a lot of roof tiles at their place. So all together it means that we saved a lot of money.

## ...and love

Unfortunately the mentality in Romos is not always how it should be, causing conflicts from time to time. Until now we were able to restore the piece every time. With His eyes of love we look at the people and that's something we really want them to learn also, 'love thy neighbor'.

It's amazing to see how two families, who are still way behind according to the other villagers, will soon also have a brick house. We're so thankful we can give them this new start in life. The houses won't be given immediately, of course they can move in as soon as they are ready, but the first three years they will remain property of Pe lunca. If they really proof themselves during these three years (taking care of themselves, their children, the house, ...), only then will we donate them their house. Of course, we have the full confidence that they will do their very best.



## Pelunca Family Files



We call this project 'Pelunca Family Files', meaning: improving, renewing or constructing houses, so the houses would be warm and live able for the families.

Per house we're searching for 12 sponsors. Every sponsor would then contribute €25/month during one year (total amount of €300). This means that after one year you really can make a difference. Not only by giving them a decent house but by helping us giving them a home. After that year every sponsor can choose whether they stop or continue for another year.

For now we only have one sponsor for these first two houses. So we still need like 23 more for now. It was a risky step we took by already starting with the construction but we're very confident it will succeed. It's a very beautiful thing for the poorest but also a very beautiful thing to do as a sponsor.

If somebody feels himself called to step up and contribute they can find more information on our website [www.pelunca.be/pff](http://www.pelunca.be/pff).

**NEW: On the bottom of the website you can choose your language!**

## Geoagiu

We had some very interesting conversations with the mayor from Geoagiu. For the Roma village there we have a vision that we will share later (when it all will be a little more certain), but the mayor was very enthusiastic about it. He said that he's very open to help us wherever they can. Of course we stay with our feet on the ground and we'll see in time if that's true. To realize this vision we would first need a building. The mayor was willing to give us a building that we could use but it was too far away from the Roma village.

## Orăștie

We continue praying for this and believe that God will open doors on His time. Meanwhile we continue the work we've been doing there the last year.

After having a conversation at the city hall of Orăștie we also send a mail to the mayor there, cuz also in Orăștie there are some things that we really hope to realize one day. At the side of a river there's a small community of Roma. About 18 houses (of planks and carton) but they're standing on illegal ground. And absolutely no one is looking after them!

We would therefore very much like to see that this mayor either gives them/us the ground or give us another piece of land where we can restart. These people don't have any drinking water, no (legal) electricity and especially at night they're often bitten by rats. They are really the poorest of the poorest, but they have a good mentality. It would be so beautiful to help them get a step, or even a few steps, further in life.



## roofing, aid en strong guests!

**The first day** we achieved that they all have a metal roofing. So done with getting wet every time it rains. Of course we didn't do this alone. In the beginning of October Jan and Gerry received a group of students from a school in Holland and together with these enthusiastic people we got in action and renewed every roof. It was again a very intense time but we got to do what we planned to. Especially the boys from the group, and some tuff girls as well, accomplished this wonderful job. The other group (the rest of the girls) got active in our barn to sort a lot of clothes together with Jessica. All the boxes with jackets, hats, scarves, gloves and boots were put outside and were sorted per size and kind. A big job, even with a big team.

**The next day** we took all the boxes to the Roma village where the people could come, and guided by the girls they could choose what they needed the most.

**The third day** was the hardest: handing out shoes and boots. It's amazing to see how their survival mode gets the upper hand and they almost fought to just get a pair of shoes. Every parent desperately wanted a pair for their children. On one hand it sometimes hurts to see them acting like this, being sometimes disrespectful and even unthankful at first, but on the other hand it just makes it so clear that these people need so much help in so many different ways.

Again the Dutch girls did a wonderful job helping the people get what they needed and we did everything we could to keep the peace. At the end of day three we handed out some food parcels as well. Thank you so much diligent students for your big effort! For a big part they also supported this financially and Jan and Gerry financed the rest of it. So you see what can be done if we all help each other.



## Rats, volunteers and a baby!

Next time we aim for the outside of the houses so the rats won't be able to get in anymore. It's awful to see babies who have been bitten multiple times during one night. And they are really nasty bites!

Meanwhile we had our first requests for EVS (European Voluntary Service). This means that young people applied through Erasmus+ to come and help us as volunteers. We can have two students. So now we have to choose who we want and how many. Anyway, it's kinda exciting having somebody, we don't know, living with us for such a long period. But we believe that it will be a blessing for them, us and the people we work with. It will be great to divide our work a bit and maybe get some new ideas that way. Oh well, we'll see how everything goes. It would only be for the beginning of May. That means that it would be a perfect timing for us, especially with the new baby and so. ☺☺

Yep, you read it well, child number three or daughter number two is in the development phase. She's expected to see the light around the 11th of April. It's just such a perfect timing. Anyway we are in Belgium that period cuz we then have our annual fundraiser and other presentations. Y'all get the exact date asap.

So half April we get our new baby, at the end of April we will be back in Romania and in the beginning of May we get extra help from the EVS-volunteer(s). That means that Jessica will be able to really enjoy the family expansion. So great how our sweat Lord arranges everything, isn't it?

So, I think our letter is long enough. We're quickly will go and make some paperwork in order while we're still a few days in Belgium. And hopefully we're back in time (at our hosts) cuz Hilde is preparing some tasty chicken and rice.

God bless you all!



Do you like our project and would you like to help us, to give others a better life? This can be done by:

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Single donation or monthly amount.

### Support project PeLunca:

IBAN: BE29 1030 4919 8064

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: [www.paypal.me/pelunca](http://www.paypal.me/pelunca)

### Support family Priem:

Family Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

## PRAYER

- That all the paperwork for EVS will be over soon and that we'll make the right choices about who to let in our lives and ministry.
- Still a little work and the houses we're building will be finished. Please pray that it will be brought to a good end.
- Pray that the communication between us and the mayors (Geoagiu and Orastie) will go a bit faster. That we will get positive feedback from them.
- That in His Power we may be able to break the chains of superstition and false beliefs, that the sick will heal but most of all that hearts will open up for Him.
- That we will keep/get the right perspective of what to do and what not to do. Otherwise we just drown in all the work.
- Also will your prayers greatly be appreciated for my gorgeous wife who's carrying our third child.
- And please don't forget our other two children. Our last visit to Belgium gave especially MarieLou a very emotional hard time.
- Please pray that we will remain in good health. But the back of Tijs still needs to be fixed. Everyday he's in pain.
- Please always keep on praying for us to not have lack of faith, that we always will follow His guidance and will, that people will recognize Him in us and that all the honor and glory will be for Him who deserves it.

Check our new website: [pelunca.be](http://pelunca.be)



## PROJECTS

- Create social surveys and help with basic needs
- Pelunca Family Files (PFF): build houses, rebuild, purchase stoves.
- Pelunca Food Parcels (PFP): Compose and distribute food packages
- Provide baby's with powdered milk
- Sort clothing and give packages to the families
- Child- and youth activities (sports, games, relaxation, bible reading)
- Medical Support (Doctor, Purchase of medicines, ...)
- Social support (helping teenage mothers, provide ID cards and other papers)

## CONTACT

Family Priem

Vaidei 266

337414 Judetul Hunedoara

Romania

[www.pelunca.be](http://www.pelunca.be)

[tijssjessicapriem@pelunca.be](mailto:tijssjessicapriem@pelunca.be)

[thuisfront@pelunca.be](mailto:thuisfront@pelunca.be)

## THANKS

- The beautiful summer that we had, the visitors, the second camp in august, new friends, happy children, ...
- The save trip to and from Belgium. The great time we had there and the heartwarming people who welcomed us.
- For the financial support we got from several people so our journey to and from Belgium was covered.
- Thanks again so much to the family Soetaert for their great care. It really feels like a second home there.
- Our beautiful home front team, for the day of collecting goods, the meetings, the support and all the help with figuring stuff out for us and helping us with all the plans we have.
- Thankful for again having a great group of students from Holland. What a big help they were.
- For the cooperation with Jan and Gerry Aarts, for their financial help according to the roofs and for their donation of so many relief goods.
- And above all thankful that our great Lord is guiding us everyday in the things we do and for making everything possible.