

## Chapter 7

# NOD Makerspace

### ABSTRACT

*NOD Makerspace in Bucharest, Romania is located in a renovated cotton factory that was built when Romania was under communist rule. It's fitting that NOD has transformed the space to become a beacon of entrepreneurship and innovation within Bucharest. NOD is the first makerspace in the city, with studios in the areas of digital fabrication, ceramics, metal and woodworking, computing, and textiles. The space also provides offices for small businesses and startups, which is an integral part of the mission of NOD. Open since 2015, NOD has continued to grow by taking over the ground floor of the factory, which will house more studio space for businesses and startups. NOD is committed to entrepreneurship and innovation but at this time struggles to find a balance between the younger generation of makers and the current professional makers of NOD. This chapter explores NOD Makerspace.*

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*We are still expanding and took the floor below us and we are going to make some studios for the co-working space and materials library because we do not have those in Romania;... NOD is the first co-working space and materials library, because we do not have those in Romania we are the first to introduce the concept and we were the first to introduce the idea of makerspaces in Romania and Bucharest. — Irina Mocanu*

## **ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND**

NOD in Romanian can be translated to knot in English, and in the context of the NOD Makerspace provides a reference to tying or connecting a community together who are interested in creative design. Located in a redeveloped building that, in the 1970s, was a cotton factory located on the Dâmbovitza River, located near the city center. NOD currently occupies 1000 m<sup>2</sup> (10,764 ft<sup>2</sup>) and has begun developing additional space in the building for an expansion. Bucharest is the capital city of Romania with a population of over 1.88 million (CIA, 2015). NOD is located in the southeastern sector four and easily navigable by public transportation. The space was opened in 2015 after considerable redevelopment efforts to transform the space from an industrial cotton factory into its current configuration as a makerspace with several offices and studios. Irina Mocanu, the assistant manager for NOD, answered the interview questions and provided a guided tour of the space. Prior to working at NOD, Mocanu studied architecture and prior to that worked in graphic design. According to the 2016 Romanian journal *Wall-Street (2016)*, the initial investment for the space was €120,000 with 40% of the materials donated by various Bucharest and other multinational corporations. Mocanu noted the significance of NOD:

*NOD is the first co-working space and materials library, because we do not have those in Romania we are the first to introduce the concept and we were the first to introduce the idea of makerspaces in Romania and Bucharest.*

The NOD building is part of a larger complex located just off the main street (Splaiul Unirii), surrounded by a fence and security shed. The only sign to the building is a small NOD logo near the entry door leading to the space. Walking into the building the first floor is vacant and under construction, with bare concrete walls and floors. Upon reaching the second floor there is another small sign with the NOD logo and a door with an RFID reader, used

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