



Greetings from tomorrow

Course: “New Life for Garbage” - The Romanian Team Diary

Between 2nd-6th October 2017, students and teachers from the five partner schools within the Erasmus+ project “Greetings from Tomorrow” took part in the Course “New Life for Garbage”, in Iași, Romania. The mobility was hosted by our high school, “Garabet Ibrăileanu” National College Iași, joining over thirty members of the project from Bulgaria, Finland, France, Italy and Romania. During this week students learned about the importance of reducing waste, reusing materials and recycling garbage by attending different activities, such as: presentations, workshops, team building activities, visits and meetings with specialists.

Next we are going to present our thoughts and experiences from the five-day mobility, letting you know how the interactions within the project group and the information that we got made us understand more about the importance of collaboration in sustaining a better life for the future.

Our guests arrived in Romania and met with the students from the host country on 1st October. They had the necessary time to get used to the home where they would stay during the trip, and some of them already started the activities and explored the city with their hosts.

The first day, 02.10.2017:

On the first day, we all met at school, our headmaster welcomed our guests and each team had presentations of their country, city and school.



After that, we had a coffee break and then we had the chance to participate in a team building and communication workshop entitled "Garbage in our life" where we had the opportunity to communicate with the students from the other countries, to learn more about them and about their native country, to improve our English skills and, last but not least, to have fun.



After lunch, we all went to visit some important tourist attractions in Iasi, the host city for the meeting in Romania. In my opinion, foreign students and teachers were impressed by the uniqueness of the places filled with history and tradition.



At the end of the day, all the students went back to their families and had free time with their hosts.

The second day, 03.10.2017:

On the second day of the project meeting, we all met at school at 9.00, as usual. We were divided into teams, depending on the country the participants were from, and we visited the school. The hosts showed them the main laboratories, such as the chemistry, the biology or the physics ones and a few classrooms where teachers were holding classes.

Then we went to the university canteen to have lunch. After that, we came back to school where each team, consisting of 3 guest students, presented a project called “The life of garbage in our country”. We learnt about ways of recycling and reducing the amount of garbage in each country. After that, each guest went home with his/her host.



The third day, 04.10.2017:

We met at school where we had 2 workshops: "Make the best out of waste-a new life to plastic waste" and "Make the best out of waste-a new life to paper waste". The materials used were recycled by us. It was a lot fun because we were divided into mixed teams, with members from each country and had to make objects out of the provided materials, such as animals, hats, planes, etc. In between the 2 workshops we went to the canteen and discussed the plans for the next day's trip. After that, we went to visit the Palace of Culture, the symbol of Iasi, where we saw some paintings, antique items, for example one of the first Romanian computers. That was the last activity for the day, we decided to stay at Palas Mall and buy souvenirs for our guests.



The fourth day, 05.10.2017:

We left Iasi early in the morning. We went on a trip to Neamt to visit the most important sites: the Monastery and the Citadel. The first stop was at the Citadel. We had such a long walk, but we had fun until we got to the Citadel. When we arrived there, everyone was surprised by the greatness of the building. We entered the first yard, where a guide was waiting for us. The guide told us all about the history of the building and what wars and fights were related to this place. After that we visited all the rooms of the Citadel and we took some photos.



After visiting the rooms, we had lunch in the front yard of the Citadel. After the meal we took the bus to Neamt Monastery. Everyone was amazed by the paintings in the Monastery and by our religion and traditions. After visiting the Monastery we took the bus to the last stop- 'Hanul Ancutei', a place from the



Romanians stories of Mihail Sadoveanu. Here we had dinner and our guests were really happy to try our traditional meals and desserts. We really had a good time here.

The fifth day, 06.10.2017:

Unfortunately, the last day came, so the last activities. We met at school, where we had an activity called “Recycling and selective collection of garbage - the secret to a clean planet”. An expert came and talked with us about this topic. After that, we went to a collection centre to see where we can leave our recyclable garbage. After all these, we had free time to eat and get ready for the “good bye” party.



We returned to school where we brought traditional Romanian food and the fun started. But before the party, we went to the school yard where we planted a tree so that this memory would last forever. We danced, sang karaoke and ate traditional dishes cooked by the parents of the host students. Everything was special and unique. The saddest moment was when we had to say goodbye to each other, but it was an opportunity for us to make new friends that we will always remember!



Conclusion:

To sum up, this short but wonderful days gave us the opportunity to make new friends and meet inspiring people from all over Europe, not ever thinking that we might have this chance. We developed our creativity and skills by sharing and learning from one another, not only within the workshops, but also during the spare time that we spent together. The interactive activities prevailed us into a deeper understanding of the issues of climate change, waste management and the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling in a sustainable world that needs our implication more than ever before.

Leaving aside our differences, we created a strong team, inspired by local grassroots initiatives, eco-friendly businesses and national and European green programs and within this new team we find the energy and the strength to shape the destiny of our society, as the youth is not only the future of the world, but it is also its present.



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