**E&S IN ROMANIA**

E&S… Who might he be? Where does he come from? What is he doing in Romania?

E&S is a chameleon, the mascot of the youngster who came from Portugal, after a long journey through Italy, Turkey, Estonia and Germany. Young Alejandro is on a tour to promote the collaboration of pupils in Europe and also the development of the entrepreneurship spirit so that they should be ready for a responsible and active social life.

Alejandro is 18 years old and came to visit Irina, his cousin from Romania. He also came to discuss about the creation and virtual functioning of a practice company.

Irina is 19 years old and is a senior at “Anghel Saligny” Technical College in Rosiorii de Vede, Teleorman County. Because her parents died when she was 8 and her grandparents died 6 years ago, Irina lives in a condo at the placement center alongside with her brother who is 1 year younger than her. Even though Radu has a slight handicap and moves with some difficulty, he is studying at the same school as Irina and is being supported by Irina and also by his colleagues. After they will finish high school, according to the Romanian law, the siblings will have to leave the placement center, if they will not continue their studies. For this reason, the placement center has initiated, a year ago, a campaign to identify the relatives of the siblings and managed to find their cousin in Portugal.

During the Easter celebration in March 2016 Alejandro’s parents arrived in Romania and met Irina and Radu face to face, to which they have previously spoken on Skype. Following the discussions carried with the staff at the placement center and also with the teachers at “Anghel Saligny” Technical College, Alejandro’s parents were impressed by the school situation of the siblings who also have skills and practical competences in many fields. Therefore, after finishing high school, and with a little moral and material support, Irina and Radu might open a company that can help them earn their living.

Alejandro, together with E&S, spoke with the siblings and also with their colleagues and found out that the pupils are familiar with notions from the ecological, social, textile, electric, mechanic, sport, informatics and linguistic domains. They also took part in several extracurricular activities held by the colleagues of Irina and Radu, such as: “Eco-Tex-IT=Spring exhibition”, “The forest, my friend”, “Water, the essence of life”, “The birds and animals in our environment”, “Let’s do it, Danube”, “My professional career”, “Communication and social competences”, “The quality of life”.

Alejandro, together with E&S, Irina and her colleagues, visited some local entrepreneurs companies in cities such as: Rosiorii de Vede, Alexandria, Turnu Magurele, and Zimnicea (the southern point of Romania). The companies were developed in domains such as: agriculture, textile, food, road and railway transportation, electricity – domains that are found within Teleorman County.

During the stay in Romania, the weather wasn’t always sunny and E&S felt rather cold. Alejandro didn’t find a place to buy him clothes, but Irina came with another idea: E&S got his protection clothes made at the school’s textile workshop. The pupils got mobilized and created clothes that made E&S proud and pleased.

And because March, the first month of spring, comes with an ecological and traditional products fair at the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, Alejandro and his parents, together with E&S, were Irina and Radu’s special guests at this event that took place in Bucharest. During the tour, the Portuguese tasted Romanian bio dishes and also traditional ones.

March also came with the county stage of the BUSINESS PLAN competition which took place in Rosiorii de Vede. The organizers were: Teleorman County School Inspectorate, together with the local administrative authorities, the important economic agents in the community and also with organizations from the civil society. Irina and Radu managed to get an invitation for Alejandro and E&S. Therefore, the two of them participated, as guests, in a contest among the practice companies in the county, contest which encouraged competition of the practice companies involved. They were impressed by the pupils who, following the competition’s objectives:

* turned into account their entrepreneurial spirit and they simulated the activity of a real company;
* got familiar with the specific activities of the real economic environment;
* took risks, using specific instruments of risk management;
* developed the necessary qualities for a dynamic entrepreneur: critical thinking, taking decisions, having responsibilities, auto organization and individual evaluation;
* promoted collaboration between the company and the real economic environment.

Alejandro and E&S discovered, following their trip in Romania, that the youth from this country have attained knowledge regarding the formation and functioning of a micro-enterprise and that they are always able to collaborate with other European students.