

ERASMUS PROJECT: ***Smart Waste Management for Smarter Cluster Schools***

PROJECT NUMBER: 2020-1-RO01-KA229-079971\_5

DATE: 4th- 8th of April 2022

Host: Romuli Secondary School

Number of participants: 25 students, 10 teachers

Event: short-term exchange of groups of pupils

**Mobility title: Reduce! Efficient use of resourcing for preserving the planet heritage - ROMANIA 2**

**MOBILITY REPORT**

Romuli Secondary School developed its first Erasmus project between the 4th – 8th of April 2022. On Sunday, the 3rd, all the teams arrived at their accommodation from Romuli and they were greeted and guided accordingly. According to the previosuly recevied programme, they all met the next morning, at 9:00 at the Romuli events hall.

**MONDAY**

After breakfast, the teams were greeted by the Romuli Erasmus team and by the project coordinator, who gave a welcoming speech, expressing her honest enthusiasm towards all the participants successful meeting.

The teams introduced themselves and each gave a short speech. After, the project coordinator made the *WasterMeter* rules clear – a daily activity in which one student chosen by each team, a *Waste Warrior*, monitorized together with the other students the quantity of waste daily. They took some notes that will be visible for all people, near the recipients, up to the wall. The purpose of the activity was to raise awareness concerning the high quantity of the waste disposed in a school every day. The students seemed very involved and interested in gaining some information concerning the aim of the activity.

The following activity - *Be a smart collector* emphasized the importance of reducing waste and the benefits of selective collection and it was presented by Ion Bradea, the representative of the Inter-community Development Association for the Integrated Management of Municipal Waste from Bistrița-Năsăud county. The students were informed related to how we should *put all in the right place* and how to *recycle for the future*  - which were the titles of the presentations that Mr. Bradea gave. The main subjects covered by the representative were the targets set by E.U. for Romania concerning the smart waste management issue, the current situation in Bistrita-Nasaud county, the actions taken to improve current situation and the impact of the recycling. Also, the children learned about the activity and the role that their institution develops.

After lunch, the teams were brought in the nearby of the*Rodnei Mountains National Park* where they observed the natural resources of Romuli commune, visiting protected areas in the Rodnei Mountains National Park. The significance of nature and natural resources were, in this way, brought into view. Also, we visited the Moisei Monastery, an interesting and old Romanian landmark, situated near Rodnei National Park. The students and teachers were curious to find out about its legend and interesting facts which made it popular all over the country.

**TUESDAY**

The next day’s first activity was called *Generation of change*and included a lesson about the national heritage of the county and protected areas of Bistrița-Năsăud county, protectedspecies (the viper, the motley tulip), the finite resources of the planet and the effects of the waste over the environment. The heating system of the school was also introduced to the participants - from waste from forestry exploitation, as an example of good practices.

The activity started with a video, which introduced the participants into the topic and, most importantly, made them aware of the high danger which nature is confronting with, in a sensitive way. (*Nature is speaking*) A small debate was developed, concerning the message of the video.

Firstly, the target of the activity was to raise an alarm signal towards the new generation, concerning the limited natural resources. The concept of natural resources was explained and clarified by some examples, developing an interactive presentation in which the students were involved and asked to participate, ask or answer questions. The teams watched a video in which several concepts related to preserving the natural resources were introduced and they learned about new concepts like scarcity/conservation/drought (*Saving Earth’s resources*). Secondly, the lesson included a subject related to the protected species of the Bistrita-Nasaud county – the tulip and its importance, together with several information about the popular viper, their natural habitats were presented (*Motley Tulip* from *Laleaua Pestrita Forest from Orheiu Bistritei* and *Vipera Berus* from *Colibita Lake*).

Moreover, the students and teachers debated not only their importance, beauty or habitats, but also ways of protecting them or enjoying them without putting them into danger.

Also, there was presented the heating system of the school, as an example of good practices. Romuli Secondary School uses waste from forestry exploitation for the system, so that they can protect nature and the limited natural resources. The system itself and its mechanism were presented.

The next activity of the day was a workshop which was about creating postcards, ready to be sent it to the families with messages concerning the smart waste management, environmental protection, protected species and limited natural resources. All the students and teachers were determined to be as creative and convincing as possible. Each team presented their works in front of the others, contributing once again in disseminating the important message in terms of good practices and behaviour towards the nature and its significance.

After closing this activity, the teams went on a trip - *Water an inexhaustible resource*? The teams made a case study on the shore of Lake Colibita (the place with the cleanest air in the country) - the legend of the lake and study of the natural habitat of Vipera Berus, a type the protected viper in Romania. The participants found out about the importance of this place, discussed and learned more about the crucial natural resource like water and, once again, about the protected viper which lives here. Moreover, the legend of the lake was presented, together with the reasons that made it so well known. In order for the participants to appreciate even more this special place, they had dinner right on the shore of the lake, enjoying its beauty.

**WEDNESDAY**

Taking the presentation and interactive lesson from the previous day into account, the teams went on another trip – this time, they explored the *Laleaua Pestrita Forest*, where they were excited to observe the motley tulip live (it only blooms during March – May every year). The teams discussed about its preserving ways and expressed their opinions regarding its significance.

Next, the teams visited a local farm from Orheiu Bistritei, known for its modern technological means. There, they were informed about the way in which the activity develops – with highly improved technological equipment, without wasting natural resources. They had lunch there, tasting local and ecological products, obtained naturally, with very few resources.

After lunch, the teams headed to the City County Council from Bistrita where they were greeted by the Vicepresident of the institution. She told them a few words, emphasizing the significance of nature. Everything developed like a real Parliament debate, having the subject - *unlimited human needs versus limited natural resources - how can we balance them reported to planet equilibrium?* The students acted like real life political figures in the Council’s meetings room. They were shown several pictures suggesting the importance of the natural resources and nature.

Each student and teacher expressed his/her opinion loudly, concerning the ways in which we can preserve the natural heritage and resources, ways in which we can protect nature and practical things we can do in order to stop or reduce the continuous use of natural resources. Important conclusions and sensitive impressions were drawn, raising awareness towards the important subject of our mobility.

The day ended with a short walk in Bistrita. Each participant was handed a brochure containing some information about the important sights of the downtown.

**THURSDAY**

On Thursday, the participants turned into tourists of Romuli. The fourth day of our mobility started at the mayor’s office. The mayor introduced the structure of the office to the students and most importantly, he talked about the industry, economy and natural resources of the village. A piano performance was given by the Music teacher and the teams sang along. Next, the teams visited the local church and found out about its history.

The main activity of the day was the visit at the local trout farm – RIN trout farm and restaurant. The participants learned again about ways in which the natural resources can be preserved – this trout farm breeds the fish naturally, with no harm brought to nature – they grow them inside their special pools, without fishing anywhere. They prepare it naturally in their restaurant, being famous at national level for their good practices and business. The teams observed the trout closely and enjoyed a lunch there, at the restaurant.

The day ended with a delightful intercultural dinner, where traditional food was offered to the participants. The teams participated to a show, in which four pairs of professional dancers performed traditional Romanian dances. Each team broke the ice by performing a traditional dance of their own country – all teams had great fun and learned new dance steps, dancing all along.

**FRIDAY**

The last day of the mobility closed the *WasteMeter* (the quantity of the waste measured daily). The students analysed the activity, made comments and offered recommendations concerning the measures to be taken for a smarter waste management. Next, the teams participated to a Kahoot test, which evaluated the knowledge accumulated throughout the week. The day ended with a ceremony for awarding diplomas of participation, exchange of souvenirs, giving speeches and impressions regarding the mobility and a final electronic feed back questionnaire, sent to all the participants.