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Project journal

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Ethnic dialogues under the Erasmus+ logo

During the month of February 2020, the second stage of the Erasmus+ international project took place in Dej, at our home school. I remember that before the arrival of the foreign students, the preparations were *in full swing* and every person from pupils' frenetic group imagined in different ways what will happen during the first day of activities.

Once the guests arrived in our school, I noticed, more unwittingly, all the differences between us: the shape of the face, the eyes, the color of the skin, etc… After 10 minutes, at the ice-breaking activity, I began to realize that our colleagues abroad felt the same way as us, the anxiety of the beginnings. Fortunately, we later discovered that we have the same musical tastes, same favorite movies or sports and much more. So, as we started to communicate, we realized that, despite the physical and ethnic differences, we were friends. With the help of the integration activities, we came to know different details about each other and to find common topics of discussion, as a result of which we generally had fun discussing on different funny moments of our lives. My favorite activities were the trips, because along the way, we had time to socialize and have fun together.

The more the days passed, the closer we got and we began to grieve with the thought of the separation day. On Thursday, the last evening of the joint program, a final party was organized, at which I can guarantee that everyone learned dances such as: *macarena*, *penguin*, *meniaito* and even *hora* on Romanian traditional music. Because our friends were going to leave on Saturday

morning, on Friday evening we met with many of the guests and made them a surprise goodbye meeting. Yes, quite a lot of tears have been shed, but that's only because we realized that many of them may never see each other again, and the new friendships is worth cultivating.

When I arrived home, I started to realize the purpose of these projects. The basic idea is to learn about the various cultural aspects and, by managing to get over physical traits, we have discovered much more than we might think. We have learned that friendship does not depend on the country, the language you speak or the color of your skin, but it depends only on our soul. I learned not to classify people according to our differences, but according to similarities and that a friendship can last even if you are 7 borders away. So for me at least, although I'm sure the other students felt the same way, the emotional impact of the project cannot be described in words.

We were and still are simply united in something greater than a childish friendship. That something is called Erasmus+ and it's not just some kind of program but a wonderful life experience. I felt that what bound us so much were exactly these differences, which I think we probably discovered that more easily than adults and this, for me, was a real life lesson. As a matter of fact, foreign students greatly appreciated Romanian food and the simplicity of our cities.

In the end, I want to recommend to all students the participation in such a project, because for me it was something unforgettable that helped me both academically speaking, giving me the opportunity to practice my English and moral, getting closer to understanding some difficult aspects for a 14-year-old student such as tolerance and respect for cultural diversity.

Madalina Rafa, 7th grade A, "Avram Iancu" Middle School, Dej

Ozel Mersin Ugur Ortaokulu, Mersin, Turkey

Going to Romania with Erasmus + was one of the experiences I had to have. İt contributed a lot to me. Speaking with my Romanian friends was more effective than take English lesson in anywhere. Besides i can observed they lifestyle and culture. With this I added one more to my general knowledge. Erasmus plus's biggest impact was friends for me. I made foreign friends and we still in touch. Even if we live in remote areas, we still continue to contribute something to each other.

Karin Tümen,

Ozel Mersin Ugur Ortaokulu, Mersin, Turkey

A great week with Erasmus+ in Dej, Romania

We started our trip with the Erasmus + project from a long bus trip that lasted many hours. We had a few short breaks to stretch our legs and one longer break in Hungary to eat something warm. When we arrived it was already night. We unpacked quickly and went to sleep because we were tired after the trip and we had to get up early in the morning. We were curious how it would look like here.

On Monday, our visit in the city of Dej began. At 8 o'clock we all gathered and went to eat breakfast, after which we went to school. It was an integration day. After listening to the short speech of the teacher showing us around, each of us stood in a circle and introduced ourselves, told us where he or she came from, how old he or she was and presented his hobby. Then there was an integration game in which we divided into groups every few minutes due to the listeners of the music, interests, etc. Thanks to that we met a lot of people and got to know their hobbies.

After that we had about a 2 hour lunch break in a restaurant where we could rest. Then at school it was time for each nationality to present their schools. Students presented films presenting their school and talked about it briefly. Our school attracted special attention of students because of the uniformed

classes. They asked us what we do in such a school and how it is there. After the presentation we described the Erasmus + project logos we created in our countries. Students showed their work and talked about them. After presenting each of them, a competition for the best logo was organized. Two works got to the finals, after which the voting was held again. Our colleague's work won. After a nice time with the hosts and guests it was time to say goodbye. We returned to the place of stay, exploring part of the city.

We started the next day with a delicious breakfast, and then we visited the railway museum . We had the opportunity to see old, unused trains. We spent two hours there. Unfortunately, the weather was not good because it was raining, but we are glad that we could be there. At 12 o'clock we returned to school where classes with our Romanian coordinator, Ms Diana Rafa, took place. We were divided into groups and did the tasks recommended by Ms Diana so that we could integrate with young people from other partner countries . After dinner until 5 p.m we had workshops with teachers from the host school. The day was full of emotions.

All our stay was interesting and great. We loved the classes and workshops, we enjoyed the fild trips to Alba Iulia and Cluj-Napoca. The trip to salt mine was fantastic. If we had the opportunity to go to Romania once again, certainly no one would refuse. We learned a lot there, we got to know Romanian customs, Romanian cuisine, music. We met wonderful people. We are very happy with the trip and we can recommend taking part in Erasmus+ projects to others.

Students from **XXVII LO im Zesłańców Sybiru in Lublin, Poland**: **Wiktoria Samuś, Klaudia Dębska, Alicja Piech, Jakub Zawiślak, Mateusz Mołczan, Jakub Widomski**

EDUCATION MEANS PROGRESS

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The experience we lived last year in Romania was extremely significant as a cultural and human enrichment for both students and teachers. The meeting involved our 13-year-old students in different activities. What they liked most were workshop ones in which they could actively participate and talk to each other. In fact, one of our main goal was achieved: our students got definitely more English fluency and confidence in talking. We also had the possibility to visit a lot of interesting places in the nearby allowing us to know Romanian food, habits and history.

The organization was impeccable, detailed and accurate and that allowed us to live our experience in the best possible way. Students made new friends and they learned how is easy to find common thoughts and to share ideas although belonging to different countries.

Our deepest thanks go to Rafa Diana and her wonderful staff together with their students.

Teachers: **Maria Calvo, Ilaria Artimagnella**
Students: **Giorgia Laudani, Diego Giuffrida, Salvo Lo Presti, Damiano Gagliano.**

Romanian Adventures

From 02/02/2020 to 08/02/2020 we were in the city of Dej, Romania. On the first day, the Romanian hosts showed us their school and we played ice breaking games to know each other. We had a lot of fun. Representatives from all countries presented their city and school, as well as their logo for the project. All the logos were very beautiful and the presentations were interesting. There was a nice welcome for us, the guests. There was a dance program with folk and contemporary dances. Our hosts performed great. The next day we went to the train museum near Dej. It was very interesting. We saw locomotives and wagons of different sizes. We were able to get into some locomotives and wagons and see them inside. Then we went to school again where we played various educational games and had a math lesson. All the children worked hard. On the third day we visited the city of Alba Iulia. The city was amazing. We visited some very interesting churches and history museums there. Then we went to school in Alba Iulia. There teachers divided us into teams and each team had to present the history of the state and our Constitution Republic. Again our hosts performed great. On the fourth day we visited the salt mines near Dej. We saw how salt is packaged. After that we took a stroll in downtown Dej. We visited the Museum of History and several interesting churches. In the afternoon we returned to the school, where we were given certificates for our participation in the project. We had a lot of fun. The fifth ,our final day we went to Cluj– Napoca. There we visited the oldest library and the collection of small books. The collection was great. I hope that our partners will like our country and we will have a great time together again.

Iva Latinova,

15 High-school „Adam Mitskevich"