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RESPECT FOR THE PAST - A CHANCE FOR THE FUTURE

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Abstract: When they reach adolescence, many young people in Romania wonder what they will do with their lives. He wonders what field of activity it would be good to go to, in order to earn a living, after leaving school. The European Union is meeting them by allocating funds to NGOs. They involve young people in non-formal education projects, through which they discover their values, native skills and passions, which they can develop in order to reach their potential. They will thus discover the field in which they can perform, in which they will be happy and will not feel that they are working. Young people are also learning to be aware of the needs of the market, in order to choose those areas of activity that are in line with their values, but are, at the same time, in demand in the market. Such a project is being implemented within the Pro Vertical Association from Târgu-Jiu, Gorj County. It is called "Respect for the Past - a Chance for the Future" and is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus + Program. The project provides young people with an example of good practice, helping them to discover that opportunities exist everywhere, they just need to take advantage of them. At the same time, they learn in the project how to use the internet to develop a business in the field of tourism, even in their village, rediscovering and promoting local traditions and history.

Keywords: Erasmus, education, non-formal, youth, tourism, entrepreneurship

The text of the article

Respect for the Past - a chance for the Future

When they reach adolescence, many young people in Romania wonder what they would do with their lives. They wonder what field of activity it would be good to go to, in order to earn a living, after leaving school. The European Union is meeting them by allocating funds to non- governmental organizations for activities concerning with these issues. They involve young people in non-formal education projects, through which they discover their values, native skills and passions, which they can develop in order to reach their potential. They will thus discover the field in which they can perform, in which they will be happy and will not feel that

they are working. Young people are also learning to be aware of the needs of the market, in order to choose those areas of activity that are in line with their values, but are, at the same time, in demand in the market. Such a project is being implemented within the Pro Vertical Association from Târgu - Jiu, Gorj County. It is called "Respect for the Past - a chance for the future" and is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus + Program. The project provides young people in rural areas with an example of good practice, helping them to discover that opportunities exist everywhere, they just need to take advantage of them. At the same time, they learn in the project how to use the internet to develop a business in the field of tourism, even in their village. They also learn how to do marketing (which is necessary no matter what field you want to work in), rediscovering and promoting local traditions and history.

EU funding for implementation in Oltenia region

The project "Respect for the Past - a Chance for the Future" (No: 2021-1-RO01-KA154-YOU-000021331) is funded by the European Union with a grant of EUR 21392, through the Erasmus + Program, Key Action 1 - "Projects Youth Mobility ". The program is managed in Romania by the National Agency for Community Programs in the Field of Vocational Education and Training (ANPCDEFP), within the Ministry of Education. The project implementation period is November 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022.

The initiators of the project are 16 young people from the Cobilița Culture and Art Center, volunteers of the Pro Vertical Association, who go to 10 localities in Oltenia, where they collaborate, for the implementation of the project, with local authorities and young people from traditional villages.

The localities selected for the project are: Șimian and Grozești (Mehedinți County); Fârtățești and Brezoi (Vâlcea County); Negomir, Cătunele, Plopșoru and Mătăsari (Gorj county); Ghidici and Bârca (Dolj County).

The purpose of the project

The aim of the project "Respect for the Past - a chance for the future" is to help young people in rural Romania to rediscover local traditions and learn how to bring them to Europe and the world, through digital methods. They can also gain entrepreneurial skills to attract tourists to rural Romania. The project also has a sustainable development component, and

young people will learn to use traditional, environmentally friendly materials. The experience of the young people in the project will be multiplied and passed on, through the media coverage and dissemination of the project results. This will be an example of good practice that can be adapted to any field of activity.

Project objectives

The project has seven well-defined objectives:

1. Consolidating young people's confidence in the European project, by solving problems related to the lack of visibility of the rural environment in Romania and the tourist opportunities it offers;

2. Facilitating the permanent dialogue between young people and local decision-makers, in order to discover the sources of information about the local traditions and customs (in the person of the village elders), necessary for documenting the materials resulting from the implementation of the project;

3. Improving the development of digital skills and abilities of young people in rural areas who will be selected to be direct beneficiaries of the project;

4. Increasing the self-esteem of young people in rural areas involved in the project, by emphasizing the local and national identity marked by promoting the traditions and customs of the communities they belong to;

5. The acquisition of entrepreneurial skills by young people from rural areas beneficiaries of the project, to attract tourists to the rural area where they live;

6. Actions for the sustainable development of society, by using, in the project, natural materials, friendly to the environment, following the model of the ancestors (wood, burnt earth, stone, etc.);

7. Creating examples of good practice among young people, by disseminating widely the activities and results of the project.

Project impact

The project has a significant impact at local, regional, national and European level, as follows:

- will help to change the mentality of many young people in rural areas with limited material resources, who consider that their only chance of earning a living is social assistance, or support from their grandparents or parents, who subsidizes from own pension or salary;

- will increase the visibility of the localities where the project took place and will stimulate other young people to post in the virtual community created within the project information to promote the localities of which they are part;

- will increase the self-esteem of young people from rural areas, with reduced material possibilities, who will be able to start a tourist activity in their locality, after benefiting from the examples of good practice within the project;

- will support the work of those who, worldwide, are educating for a sustainable society, by protecting the environment and the use of natural materials, to the detriment of plastics, which are difficult to degrade and require high energy consumption to be produced.

- will contribute to the preservation and promotion of local, regional and national traditions and, through them, to the preservation of Romania's national identity, in the context of European diversity.

Expected results

Participants in activities:

- increase their digital skills by participating in the development of materials to promote local traditions and customs;

- they will increase their self-esteem;

- they will develop entrepreneurial skills to attract tourists to their localities, by promoting, on the Internet, local traditions and customs, being able to continue this activity even after the end of the project;

- will develop their communication skills, by collaborating with the project team;

- they will cultivate their collaborative relations with the local authorities.

First destination: Șimian- Mehedinți

The first location where the project activities took place was Șimian commune, from Mehedinți county. It will be the only one we will talk about here, both to fit in the space set by the organizers, and because it is the one for which the resulting materials have already been developed and published.

https://youtu.be/bLdzZHwi1XU
https://www.verticalonline.ro/simian-respect-pentru-trecut-o-sansa-pentru-viitor?fbclid=IwAR0yPiR5FSX8QMxm7Rl9p4sfYAJn116Vb2erwOdKV7-5MZCNCNQEkMwQR9M

The virtual community has also been created
Holiday in Romania/Vacanta in Romania,

which will host all the materials of the project and which will be a virtual place suitable for the promotion of rural tourism in Romania.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/558623248646658

In the hope that I will make you curious to watch the materials made as a result of the activities at Șimian, I will present here a short summary:

„The villages of Romania are an inexhaustible source of history and traditions, some vestiges being preserved, over time, until today. Șimian commune from Mehedinți, located in the southwest of the country, in the Oltenia region, on the Danube bank, is an indisputable proof in this respect. It is a place where tourists could stop for a while to see everything worth seeing. They will be able to enjoy the hospitality of the hosts and the traditional dishes, some of them based on fish from the Danube… They will be able to visit the ruins of the fortification located on Șimian island, moved here from the sunken island Ada Kaleh… Tudor Vladimirescu and Cula Nistor from Cerneți… They will be able to pray at the Cerneți Monastery and will be able to eat donuts, at the fair, as in the past… They will be able to see, with their own eyes, at the village horseshoe, how to make a horseshoe and how a horse… They will even be able to ride at the Șimian Riding Center and enjoy the sight of a variety of birds and animals… They will be able to participate, on Epiphany, in the ceremony to sanctify the Danube waters… Here are some reasons to make a stop, at least for two or three days, in Șimian, Romania."

(Source: https://youtu.be/bLdzZHwi1XU)

Photo: Stoenescu Aurelia-Mariana (Briceag)

Bibliographic resources:

Ada Kaleh - public group:

(https://www.facebook.com/groups/247709550645)

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