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Start ESC: A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering

Project Code: 2023-1-RO01-ESC51-VTJ-000125085

Implementation Period: 01.06.2023 – 30.09.2024

Beneficiary Organization: Asociația Pro Dezvoltare DACIA (APDD) Romania

This project, Start ESC: A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering, brings together volunteers to promote inclusion, diversity, and solidarity through activities designed to be accessible and impactful.

Proposed Objectives:

- **Promote Inclusion and Solidarity:** Encourage participation in inclusive activities, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.
- **Skill Development for Employment:** Equip volunteers with the necessary skills to improve their chances of employment. This includes digital competencies and an introduction to entrepreneurial thinking.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Emphasize the importance of environmental protection, sustainable development, and climate change education, contributing to the volunteers' personal, civic, ecological, and social growth.

This initiative represents a journey towards a more sustainable and inclusive future, where volunteers not only contribute to their communities but also develop valuable skills for their personal and professional lives.

ABOUT HOSTING ORGANIZATION



Asociația Pro Dezvoltare DACIA (APDD), a non-governmental organization founded in 2016, aims to support community development in educational, social, economic, cultural, and environmental aspects.

APDD is guided in its organization and operations by principles such as initiative, involvement and cooperation, volunteerism, mutual respect and support, transparency, fairness, competition, responsibility, integrity, equality, and legality.

In its 2016-2020 institutional development plan aimed at improving service quality, APDD focuses on the following activities:

- Internationalization through mobility and international cooperation projects
- Developing and implementing projects with local, regional, national, and international funding
- Supporting the training and professional development of youth and adults from both urban and rural areas
- Organizing and conducting volunteer activities
- Collaborating with other professional groups, entities from related fields (NGOs, public institutions, etc.) both domestically and internationally.

PARTICIPANTS/ VOLUNTEERS



Isa Yesildag

"Hi, My name is İsa, I'm from Türkiye and I'm 25.

I am considerate and caring; I am a good communicator; an organizer, and I work well as a supportive team member. My greatest strength is my passion to continue learning and growing. I always seek to experience new things, learn from other people, and then apply those learnings to my life. I chose Romania for volunteering as I have been here before, and wanted to explore more about the country, people and its culture."

Nayra Essameldin Abdelwahab Ramadan

"Ahlan! I'm Nayra from Egypt 🇪🇬.

I'm 25 years old and I studied interior design at Alexandria university right there in the city I call home – Alexandria.

I began my journey in volunteering and social activities at the young age of 12.

Meeting new people and exploring the world around me have always been my favorite pastimes, and curiosity drives me to engage with my surroundings in a creative and fulfilling way, making me feel most alive.

Today, I'm embarking on a new adventure, taking my passion for social engagement and volunteering beyond Egypt's borders for the very first time.

Beyond that, I have a deep love for painting, a passion for taking in new responsibilities and adding new experiences to myself, and a strong affinity for capturing moments through photography; it's kind of my thing."





Asmaa Marzouk Ahmed Ahmed Abogamra

"I am Asmaa. I am 20 years old and from Egypt. I work a graphic designer.

I am participating in a volunteering project in Romania and I am happy with this experience.

My objectives include promoting inclusion, diversity, and solidarity through volunteering.

I am excited to learn and contribute towards the mentioned goals in the project. Thank you for the opportunity, and I look forward to explor more about Romania!"

Diana Chachua

"Hello everyone!

I am Diana from Georgia 🇬🇪 and I am 21 years old.

I study English philology at the university.

I love learning the new languages so it's a great opportunity for me at this moment.

I can't wait to discover Romanian culture and language.

Hope this year will be good for me and for my experiences here."





Salome Gotsiridze

"Hello, I'm Salome from Georgia 🇬🇪 and I'm lawyer.

Volunteering abroad, like in Romania, allows me to immerse myself in a different culture, learn about its customs and traditions, and broaden my global perspective.

Volunteering provides a chance to learn new skills, gain experience, and expand my knowledge in different areas.

It can also help develop qualities like empathy, adaptability, and problem-solving.

I hope I will enjoy my time here."

Gulcin Yilmaz

*"Hello! İyi Günler!
My name is Gülçin, I am 24 years old and I am from Türkiye 🇹🇷
I graduated from the department of English Language and Literature at Bülent Ecevit University. I have been to Romania both in 2021 and 2022. I was an Erasmus student in Târgu Mureş. The moment I saw this project I was excited to be a part of it because I know the culture, history and people in Romania.
In addition, I love traveling, exploring, reading, journaling, trying new things and expanding my vision.
I am going to contribute the project with motivation, courage and happiness!"*





Afsana Badalova

"Hello, I am Afsana, I am from Azerbaijan 🇦🇿

I graduated from Foreign Languages University.

And now I am volunteering in Romania.

I am here to improve my new culture and foreign languages.

I believe that this project will add a lot to me 😊"

Mohammed Lotfy Awad

"Hi, My name is Mohammed Lotfy, and I am from Egypt 🇪🇬. I am 26 years old, and I work as a psychology teacher and a fitness trainer. I love to travel, learn, gain new experiences, and do new things.

I am passionate about helping others to improve their lives. I believe that everyone has the potential to achieve their goals, and I am committed to providing the support and guidance that they need to succeed.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, exploring new places, and trying new activities. I am always looking for new ways to challenge myself and learn new things.

I am excited to be here today, and I look forward to meeting new people and learning new things."





and experiences, all before the age of 35!"

Ameen Ahmed

"Hello :))

I'm Ameen, from Alexandria, Egypt ,
and I'm 26 years old.

My educational journey led me to study computer engineering and Acting/ Directing at Alexandria University, where I delved into both the technical and creative realms.

Since 2015, I've immersed myself in volunteering, engaging with multiple local and international organizations, driven by a passion for making a positive impact.

Creativity fuels my soul, and I'm constantly exploring new avenues of expression.

Embracing the philosophy of YOLO (You Only Live Once), I eagerly seek out new experiences, relish in meeting diverse individuals, and embrace the thrill of taking calculated risks.

With a zest for exploration and a desire to broaden my horizons, my ultimate aspiration is to travel the globe, immersing myself in diverse cultures

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

OCTOBER 2023

October 20, 2023

At Sutești Secondary School, we engaged 65 students in activities aimed at raising awareness about sustainable development. The day was filled with fun and educational non-formal sessions, followed by an outdoor trip to the Pietroasa Church. We extend our gratitude to the Erasmus+ program and the European Solidarity Corps for supporting this initiative.



October 23, 2023

At the Biblioteca Municipală Drăgășani, five participants gathered for a Romanian language course. This session helped improve their conversational skills and introduced essential phrases to foster a deeper connection with the local culture and community.

October 24, 2023

Continuing at Sutești secondary school the workshops about sustainable development. Through fun activities and non formal methods focused on raising awareness of sustainable development, we were pleasantly surprised by how adorable the children were.



October 25, 2023

Volunteers met at Biblioteca Municipală Drăgășani to prepare for the upcoming activity at Teodor Bălășel Secondary School. The meeting focused on brainstorming energizers and non-formal methods to engage students in lively and effective educational sessions.

October 26, 2023

At Teodor Bălășel Secondary School in Ștefănești, our volunteers from Martinique, Turkey, and Egypt met with 56 students. They introduced their projects and engaged the children through games and fun activities, building strong connections with the local school community.



October 27, 2023

A mentoring session was held at Biblioteca Municipală Drăgășani, where experienced volunteers shared their knowledge with newer members. The session encouraged open discussion, collaboration, and support, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment among the participants.

October 30, 2023

Participants returned to Biblioteca Municipală Drăgășani for another Romanian language course. This session focused on refining their conversational skills and vocabulary, helping them to better engage with the local community.

October 31, 2023

A final meeting at Biblioteca Municipală Drăgășani focused on discussing non-formal educational methods for future activities. Volunteers exchanged ideas and strategies, laying the foundation for more engaging and impactful sessions ahead.

NOVEMBER 2023

Start ESC: A New Beginning - Green and inclusive volunteering

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1st November

We gathered together at the library, a space filled with quiet inspiration and the hum of shared purpose, to discuss a special project: crafting Facebook posts that would shine a spotlight and introduce our cherished volunteers. These posts are not simple updates; they are heartfelt tributes to the individuals who give so much of themselves to our cause, and we wanted to ensure that every word reflects our deep appreciation.

2nd November

We gathered in the library to get to know each other better, with the arrival of new volunteers. We eagerly shared our backgrounds and learned about the diverse countries we come from. In this welcoming space, we discussed how our unique perspectives and experiences could enrich our project, exploring ways to collaborate and contribute meaningfully to its success.

3rd November

We gathered once more in the library, this time to deepen our understanding of our project and its purpose. Our discussion led us to explore Romania, a country rich in tradition and modern vibrancy, and especially Drăgășani, a town known for its historic vineyards and deep cultural roots. We realized our project was more than a task – it was a journey of discovery and connection, honoring the heritage and humanity of the places and people involved.

6th November

We gathered at the library to discuss the workshops we plan to conduct at the school during our visit. Together, we brainstormed ideas, considering various activities that would be educational, engaging, and non-formal. We also thought of incorporating games to make the experience fun and interactive for the students, ensuring that our workshops would be meaningful and enjoyable. We also came up with the idea of organizing a flash mob in Sibiu to raise awareness about environmental issues. We spent our time planning and choreographing the dance routine, aiming to create a vibrant and impactful event that would draw attention to our cause and engage the community in a meaningful way.

7th November

We met our new volunteer from Turkey. This meeting had a special twist – one of our volunteers was celebrating her birthday and wanted to share the joy with us. Afterward, we headed to a nearby restaurant, where we celebrated her birthday together, enjoying the chance to bond and create memorable moments outside of our usual routine.

8th November

We visited the school and conducted our workshop focused on understanding the value of foreign languages, inclusion, and sustainability. The students were engaged as we explored these important topics together. To make the learning experience even more enjoyable, we played some games, which brought a lot of energy and fun to the day. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.



9th November

Reflecting on the incredible synergy of 9th of November 2023, we seamlessly blended the essence of two powerful initiatives: 'A New Beginning – Green and Inclusive Volunteering' and 'Awareness and Sustainability in Sibiu.' The heart of our message resonated through a captivating flashmob at Sibiu city's expansive square. Among the lively choreography, we passionately conveyed crucial topics: the urgent need to save our environment, an invitation to join the transformative journey of Erasmus Plus, fostering a greener environment, and empowering youth for a sustainable future. Our collective aim is to build a movement for environmental progress, uniting with Erasmus and Solidarity Corps.



10th November

We visited the Drăgășani Museum of Wine, where we explored the fascinating history of winemaking. We examined a collection of old tools and equipment used in the process and had the opportunity to taste some of the region's renowned wines. It was an enriching experience that deepened our appreciation for the art and tradition of winemaking.



13th November

We gathered at the library to update our records and share the activities from the previous week. We compiled and posted details of our events, ensuring that our experiences and accomplishments were documented and shared with the team.

14th November

We gathered at the library once again to discuss various games for playing with children at the school. After considering several options, we decided that "1, 2, 3, Sun" was our favorite. We enjoyed playing the game ourselves to ensure it would be engaging and fun for the kids.

15th November

We gathered at the library once again to discuss various games and workshops. We brainstormed many ideas but decided to test a few ourselves to assess their difficulty and effectiveness. This hands-on approach helped us determine which activities would be most suitable and engaging for the children.

16th November

At the library, we had Romanian lessons where we learned the basics of the language. This session was an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with key phrases and concepts, enhancing our ability to connect with and engage with the local community.

17th November

Discussions about expectations, contributions and fears.

20th November

We had an amazing day at Colegiul Național "Gib Mihaescu", Drăgășani, combining two awesome projects: 'A New Beginning: Green and Inclusive Volunteering' and 'Awareness & Sustainability in Romania.' Our goal was to make learning fun while discussing students' rights and enjoying cool workshops and games. The Scenario game sparked conversations on human rights and students' rights in education, encouraging active engagement within the school community. It was an advocacy and education-packed day, and we are grateful to the school's leadership and teaching staff for their warm welcome.

21st November

We gathered at the library to create a detailed post about our experiences at the school the previous day. As we worked on documenting and sharing the highlights, we brainstormed and discussed new games and activities for future events. This spontaneous discussion allowed us to explore a variety of engaging options, ensuring fresh and exciting ideas for our upcoming interactions with the children.

22nd November

We gathered to plan the lesson for tomorrow's visit to the elementary school, tailoring our activities specifically for that setting. We decided to include a game of musical ball and took the time to play it ourselves to ensure it would be enjoyable and suitable for the children. This preparation allowed us to fine-tune the activity and anticipate any adjustments needed to make the experience engaging and fun for the students.

23rd November

We visited Elementary School "Teodor Bălăşel" from Ştefăneşti, Vâlcea County, to talk about the environment—how it can be either good or toxic. We explained the differences and why it's important. After that, we asked the students to draw what they learned about the environment in general. It was fantastic to see their drawings reflecting what they understood. We also played with them, and they hugged us goodbye, leaving us with cherished memories of our time together.



24th November

On 24th November 2023, we visited Elementary School "Teodor Bălăşel" from Ştefăneşti, Vâlcea County, for a similar activity as the previous day but with a different class. The children engaged in discussions about the environment and created beautiful drawings based on what they learned. Their enthusiasm and creativity were heartwarming, and we once again felt the strong connection we had built with them.

27th November

Our volunteers from the 'A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering' project joined students from Sutesti Elementary School in Vâlcea County for special activities for the Romanian National Day.



28th November

Pro Dezvoltare Dacia Association hosted a remarkable cultural event, where traditional Romanian dishes captivated the hearts and taste buds of our volunteers from Martinique, Turkey, Georgia, and Egypt. It was a beautiful evening where we warmly said goodbye to our dear volunteers from Martinique – Alexia, David, and Dave. They successfully completed their volunteering period, and we wish them much success in their future adventures!

29th November

We gathered at the library to reflect on and discuss the various activities we had undertaken over the past few days. Our primary goal was to create engaging Facebook posts that would capture and convey the essence of our recent experiences. We reviewed the highlights and significant moments, ensuring that our updates were both informative and compelling.

30th November

Day OFF, National Holiday – St. Andrei.

DECEMBER 2023

1st December **Day of Romania**

4th December

This session focused on enhancing language skills through interactive activities designed to promote fluency and comprehension among participants.

5th December

Our volunteers went to Râmnicu Vâlcea to extend their residence permits. The visa extension is crucial for volunteers from non-European countries in order to reside for a long term.

6th December

In this session, we explored non-formal education methods, such as "role-playing," where participants enact different scenarios to enhance understanding and empathy. This interactive approach encourages participants to step into different roles, fostering deeper connections with the material and each other.

7th December

We discussed various energizers to invigorate group dynamics. One example is the "Human Knot" game, where participants stand in a circle and hold hands with two different people across from them. The goal is to untangle the knot without letting go of each other's hands, promoting teamwork and communication.

8th December

This mentoring session focused on the importance of teamwork, highlighting strategies for effective collaboration among volunteers.

11th December

Claudia, our mentor, skillfully unraveled the meanings of entrepreneurship, enterprise, and entrepreneur, leaving us inspired and eager to apply these concepts.



12th December

This session continued to enhance language skills, with a focus on vocabulary expansion and conversational practice.

13th December

We prepared for the upcoming workshop by discussing objectives and strategies to ensure a successful and engaging experience for all participants.

14th December

On December 14th, we had the privilege of organizing two workshops at Nicolae Bălcescu Elementary School in Drăgășani, alongside wonderful first-grade students. The objective of our project "A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" was to promote inclusion, diversity, and solidarity through individual volunteering. We emphasized inclusive activities, using non-formal education and games to convey to the children the importance of inclusion and diversity. It's delightful to see how these young ones understood our concepts through active participation in fun and educational activities.



15th December

On Friday, December 15, volunteers from the "A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project organized an interesting workshop at the "Nicolae Bălcescu" Kindergarten. Inclusion is a value we passionately promoted, providing wonderful experiences for the little ones. Together, we created memories that will endure in our hearts and those of the children. A heartfelt thank you to the entire team for the warm welcome!



18th December

On December 18th, we had the privilege of organizing a captivating workshop at the National College Gib Mihaescu in Drăgășani, dedicated to entrepreneurship and the development of essential skills for future careers. One of the objectives of the "A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project is to increase employment opportunities by cultivating digital skills and entrepreneurial knowledge. It was a wonderful experience for both students and us, the involved volunteers. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the school's leadership and teaching staff for their support in making this impactful event happen. We are proud to contribute to shaping the future talents and to be part of a new beginning for these enthusiastic young individuals!



19th December

On December 19th, we had a magical day at Sutesti Elementary School, where we held a special creation workshop. In the spirit of Christmas, we explored the wonders of creativity with the children and crafted delightful Christmas hand crafts together. The relaxed holiday atmosphere was truly special, and the joy of creating together lit up the eyes of the little ones. We take pride in successfully overcoming inclusion barriers, providing each child with an opportunity to shine in their unique creativity.



20th December

This session focused on how our contributions impact the community and the importance of individual development for all volunteers involved in the project.

21st December

With joy, we share the wonderful experience of Thursday, December 21, when we were invited by Sutești Middle School to a Christmas celebration full of tradition and warmth. Volunteers from the "A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project had the privilege to discover and participate in the beautiful Romanian traditions skillfully prepared by the teachers and enthusiastically embraced by the students of the school. This experience was even more special, as we had the opportunity to share our traditions with volunteers from Turkey, Georgia, Egypt, and Azerbaijan. A moment of understanding and integration into the community, with unforgettable memories.



22nd December

We gathered at the library to reflect on our experiences and update our social media pages to share the progress and success of our project with a wider audience.

25th December Christmas

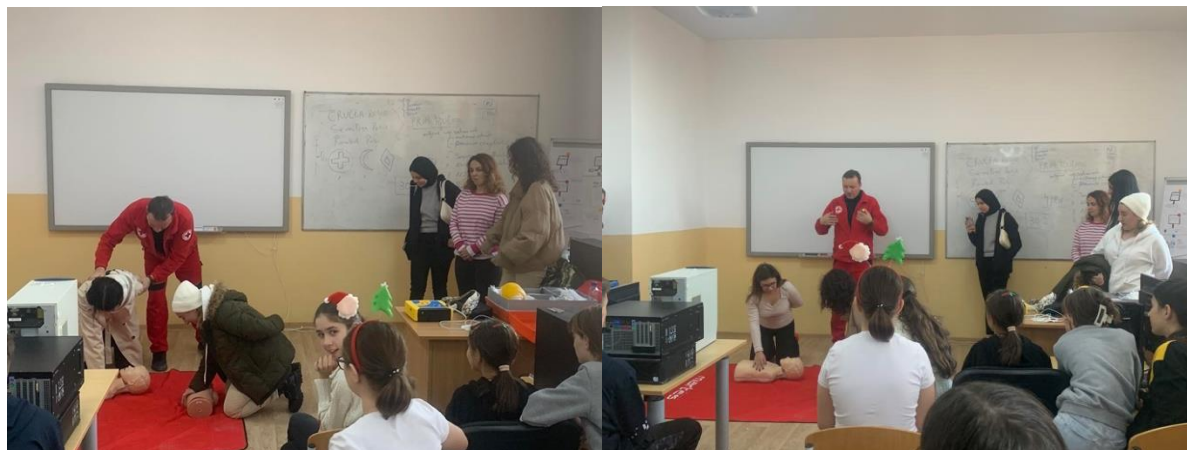
26th December Christmas

27th December

In this session, we gathered to share reflections on the past year, discussing our achievements and setting intentions for the upcoming year. We encouraged volunteers from the "A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project to express their wishes and goals for the future.

28th December

With joy and gratitude, we share the news that volunteers from the "A New Beginning: Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project had the privilege of participating in a first aid course generously organized by the Red Cross at Sutesti Elementary School. Our heartfelt thanks to the school's leadership for their unwavering support! Beyond the scope of our project, volunteers now have the opportunity to acquire new essential knowledge, contributing to the development of their personal learning plans. The first aid course is just one example that will guide them toward personal growth and community involvement.





29th December

We explore new paths and diverse cultures together within our projects, and today we want to emphasize the importance of residence permits. These essential documents are the key for our volunteers from non-European countries involved in our long-term projects. We've had interesting moments at the immigration office during our visits for the residence permits of volunteers from Turkey, Egypt, and Georgia. These experiences not only provide them with the opportunity to contribute to the community but also allow them to exchange knowledge and bring together diverse perspectives. We take pride in supporting an inclusive and diverse environment and we are grateful for all our passionate volunteers from around the world. Together, we are building a global community of exchanges and mutual learning!



JANUARY 2024

1st January

National Holiday - New Year's Day

2nd January

National Holiday - New Year's Day

3rd January

Volunteers gathered at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani for a Romanian language course aimed at improving their language skills. The session focused on practical conversation exercises to enhance integration within the local community.

4th January

In this session, participants discussed potential themes for future workshops, ensuring alignment with the goals of the "A New Beginning: Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project. Topics such as environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and local culture were explored as possible workshop themes.

5th January

A mentorship session was held at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani to discuss how each volunteer contributes to the local community. Volunteers shared challenges they've faced, identified problems within the community, and brainstormed solutions to address these issues through active involvement and volunteering.

8th January

Volunteers from the "A New Beginning: Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project delved into the past at the exhibition of vintage photography at the Drăgășani Cinema. Together, they uncovered captivating stories and the city's history.





9th January

Volunteers gathered for another engaging Romanian language course at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani. This interactive session focused on expanding vocabulary and improving conversational skills through role-playing and group activities.

10th January

Twelfth-grade students took part in a captivating entrepreneurship workshop organized by volunteers from the "A New Beginning: Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project. They created businesses with unique logos and mottos, carefully identifying both strengths and weaknesses of entrepreneurship.





11th January

At Nicolae Bălcescu Elementary School, 3rd-grade students participated in a captivating entrepreneurship workshop exploring creativity and initiative in the business world.

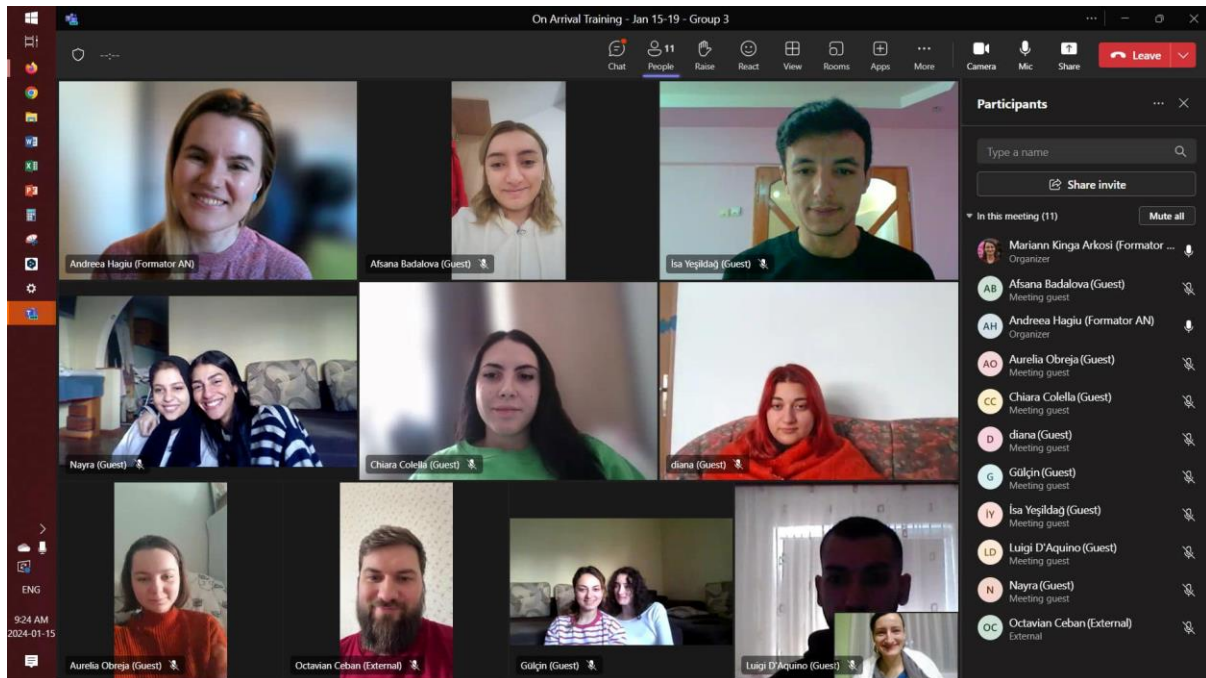


12th January

A mentorship session was held to discuss the challenges and dynamics of living together in shared spaces. Topics covered included communication strategies, conflict resolution, and creating harmonious environments among team members.

15th January - On Arrival Training online – 1st Day

Engaged in discussions on solidarity and cultural differences, explored "Henner" health insurance, and covered the roles of the National Agency, Hosting Organization, Sending Organization, and Volunteers.



16th January - On Arrival Training online – 2nd Day

Continued discussions on solidarity and cultural awareness, with a focus on overcoming language barriers and fostering inclusion.

17th January - On Arrival Training online – 3rd Day

Explored cultural differences and strategies for setting goals for success.

18th January - On Arrival Training online – 4th Day

Emphasized the importance of open communication to foster an inclusive environment and minimize discrimination.

19th January - On Arrival Training online – 5th Day

Final day of On Arrival training, highlighting solidarity, cultural awareness, and effective collaboration within the project.

22nd January

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Volunteers gathered for another interactive Romanian language course at the Municipal Library, aimed at improving conversational and comprehension skills.

23rd January

This session focused on the Fishbowl Method, a popular non-formal education technique. Participants discussed how to apply it effectively in school environments to encourage active participation and discussion.

24th January

National Holiday - Mica Unire

25th January

In this session, participants discussed energizers that can be used in school settings, such as the "Ball Toss Name Game," where students toss a ball and say their name and a favorite activity, encouraging active movement and engagement.

26th January

This mentorship session focused on workload balance, addressing how to track contributions, and coming to an agreement on equitable work distribution among team members.

29th January

Another engaging Romanian language course designed to enhance vocabulary and pronunciation for volunteers.

30th January

Volunteers planned and organized the upcoming recycling workshop. Discussions focused on the choice of games and non-formal methods to be used, with the goal of engaging students through fun and educational activities.

31st January

Educational workshops on recycling with 5th and 8th-grade students. The session included energizers, quizzes, and activities to promote sustainable awareness. The volunteers from the project "A New Beginning – Green and Inclusive Volunteering" organized two educational workshops at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, addressing vital topics about the environment and recycling.



FEBRUARY 2024

1st February

Online meeting where our volunteers connected from home in Drăgășani. The session was vibrant, exploring energizing activities and continuing our Romanian language course. Each participant contributed to a collective story, demonstrating creativity and teamwork. It was inspiring to witness how individual inputs shape a shared narrative.



2nd February

A recycling workshop was held at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, engaging 12 participants from the "Tudor Vladimirescu" Elementary School. Our volunteers organized two educational sessions focused on environmental awareness and recycling. The enthusiasm from the eighth-grade students was heartwarming, making this a gratifying experience.





5th February

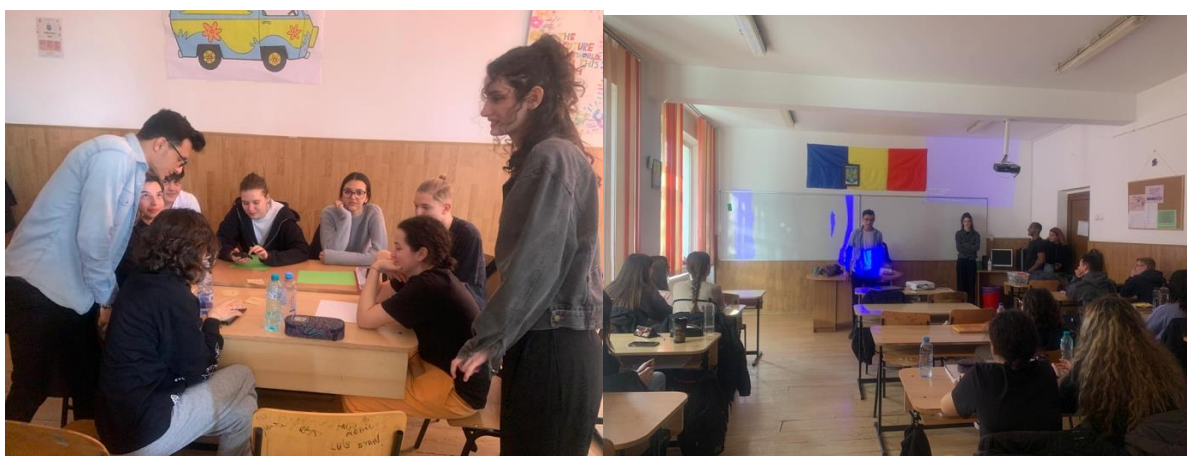
A mentorship session at the Municipal Library Drăgășani was dedicated to discussing personal development and community contributions. Participants reflected on their growth and shared insights on how they can further impact their surroundings positively.

6th February

Preparation for an upcoming workshop took place at the Municipal Library, where volunteers brainstormed topics, selected activities, and practiced energizer games to foster engagement. The collaborative effort set a dynamic tone for the forthcoming workshop.

7th February

Three workshops were conducted at the National College Gib Mihaescu in Drăgășani, focusing on the European Solidarity Corps and the Erasmus+ program. Participants engaged in introductions and shared their aspirations, followed by interactive activities that promoted camaraderie. A special emphasis was placed on recycling, with students creating stories from recycling-related words and presenting them creatively.





8th February

Preparatory work for the next day's workshop occurred at the Municipal Library, where the team finalized details and created a welcoming environment for participants.

9th February

A presentation at the National College “Gib Mihaescu” included discussions on volunteer experiences and motivations for choosing Romania. Participants were encouraged to engage with our project, fostering a positive atmosphere for sharing knowledge about volunteering and cultural exchange.





12th February

The online meeting titled "Tea cup chronicles" brought together volunteers for a collaborative video project. This session was rich in creativity, showcasing the power of teamwork in generating innovative ideas. We celebrated our progress and looked forward to future collaborative efforts.



13th February

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Engaging with twelfth-grade students at the National College “Gib Mihaescu” focused on the European Solidarity Corps. The lively discussions included Q&A sessions and interactive storytelling games, making learning fun and engaging for all participants.



14th February

The day was spent preparing for a workshop at the Municipal Library, with an emphasis on finding energizing games and finalizing the workshop structure. This collaborative preparation was crucial for the following day's activities.

15th February

At the "Gib Mihăescu" National College, a workshop brought students together to explore storytelling through recycling themes. Using non-formal methods, we promoted our project and shared insights about the Erasmus Plus and European Solidarity Corps programs. The enthusiastic participation from 58 students was a testament to the workshop's success.



16th February

A mentorship session at the Municipal Library provided an opportunity for volunteers to discuss teamwork strategies and participate in team-building activities. The collaborative discussions fostered a sense of community among participants.

19th February

Preparation for the upcoming workshop took place at the Municipal Library, ensuring all details were finalized and the volunteers were ready for a successful session.

20th February

An inspiring workshop at Mitrofan Middle School promoted values of diversity and inclusion through engaging activities. We expressed gratitude to the school leadership for their support in facilitating meaningful discussions.



21st February

Another mentorship session was conducted at the Municipal Library, providing ongoing support and guidance for volunteers in their personal and community development journeys.

22nd February

On 22nd February, we continued the engaging workshop at Mitrofani Middle School in Vâlcea County. Building on Tuesday's activities, we further promoted diversity, inclusion, and solidarity through interactive non-formal exercises. The school's leadership and team once again showed great support, helping deepen the impact of these essential values for fostering a more balanced and inclusive community. Every step forward makes a difference!



23rd February

The completion of reports and evaluations at the Municipal Library allowed volunteers to reflect on their activities and promote the project within the community effectively.

26th February

A monthly mentorship session provided space for evaluation and open discussions among participants, encouraging feedback and future planning.

27th February

The Romanian language course continued at the Municipal Library, focusing on interactive activities to improve participants' language skills in practical contexts.

28th February

Volunteers crafted handmade martisoare to celebrate spring's arrival, promoting solidarity and inclusion in the community. This initiative honored traditions while providing valuable skills development opportunities for participants.



29th February

The crafting of handmade martisoare continued, with volunteers collaborating to create beautiful pieces symbolizing spring's arrival and community spirit.

MARCH 2024

1st March

In the spirit of spring and solidarity, volunteers from the ESC project "Start: A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" distributed handmade Martisor to the women of Dragasani with love. Each Martisor bore the stamp of their creativity and passion for the community. Together, they celebrated the arrival of spring, promoting a culture of involvement and sharing.



4th March

Volunteers worked on planning the workshops for Thursday, 7th March, and Friday, 8th March, at the Municipal Library. They focused on selecting appropriate themes, energizers, and non-formal methods to ensure active engagement and learning. The collaborative planning aimed to create inclusive and diverse workshops.

5th March

The mentoring session at the Biblioteca Municipala emphasized the benefits of volunteering and its significance for personal and community development. Participants shared experiences and explored how their efforts contribute to societal betterment.

6th March

Continuing their journey in the "Start ESC: A New Beginning - Green and Inclusive Volunteering" project, volunteers attended Romanian language lessons at the Municipal Library. The sessions aimed to enhance their language skills while deepening their understanding of Romanian culture.

7th March

At Prudeni Elementary School, primary school students enthusiastically participated in workshops focused on diversity and inclusion. Through interactive methods such as games, videos, and drawing activities, students learned to appreciate different perspectives and experiences.



8th March

On International Women's Day, two workshops were organized at Prudeni Middle School, showcasing the cultural diversity of volunteers' home countries. Students engaged in presentations, discussions, and interactive activities to explore the richness of cultures from Egypt, Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.



11th March

Volunteers led an art workshop at Prudeni Middle School, encouraging students to use non-formal methods and hands-on activities to express their creativity. The workshop fostered inclusion and allowed participants to explore their artistic abilities.



12th March

At Prudeni Secondary School, the workshop focused on enhancing creativity, collaboration, and communication among students through team-building exercises and creative activities. Participants worked together to strengthen their teamwork skills.





13th March

Continuing their language journey, volunteers attended a Romanian language lesson at the Municipal Library. This session emphasized conversational skills through interactive activities, helping volunteers to better integrate into the local community.

14th March

Volunteers introduced energizer activities at the Municipal Library that can be utilized in classroom settings to boost student engagement and motivation. These activities aimed to create a lively and participatory learning environment.

15th March

The mentoring session at the Biblioteca Municipala focused on essential topics such as cleanliness, adaptability, and how these skills contribute to personal and community development. Volunteers shared practical tips on maintaining hygiene in both private and public spaces.

18th March

Preparation for the entrepreneurial skills workshop on 20th March took place at the Biblioteca Municipala, where volunteers discussed activities, energizers, and non-formal education methods to ensure an engaging learning experience.

19th March

At the Municipal Library, volunteers planned the workshop for 21st March, selecting the theme and preparing activities to promote creativity and teamwork among participants.

20th March

Students at Poganu Secondary School participated in a workshop on developing entrepreneurial skills, exploring business creation through non-formal activities.



21st March

Continuing their focus on entrepreneurial skills, volunteers engaged students at Poganu Secondary School in creative and business-oriented activities, fostering a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.





22nd March

The mentoring session at the Municipal Library focused on exploring intercultural similarities and differences, promoting understanding and respect in a multicultural context. Participants shared their experiences and discussed strategies to enhance intercultural collaboration.

25th March

Workshops held at Bratianu Technological High School focused on "Irresponsible Exploitation of Natural Resources" and "Pollution." Students created panels with prevention measures and engaged in meaningful discussions about environmental issues.





26th March

Students participated in workshops on food waste and ecological nutrition at Bratianu Technological High School. They shared insights on minimizing food waste and making environmentally conscious choices through group discussions and informative posters.





27th March

On Wednesday, March 27th, we organized four workshops at Brătianu Technological High School in Drăgășani, Vâlcea, as part of the Green Week program.

Our volunteers presented and explained the workshop topics:

- Waste Management: Discussion on responsible living: How do we reduce plastic waste in our daily lives? How do we reduce water waste in our daily lives? How do we reduce paper waste in our daily lives? How do we reduce food waste in our daily lives? How do we save energy in our daily lives?
- Biodiversity: The future of the planet depends on us! Presentation of the best practices project "For a Green Planet: Ecology and Environmental Protection (Green Planet)", by young participants in mobility.
- Waters and aquatic life: Practical laboratory activity: "Water, the essence of life - Analysis of water quality in the Municipality of Drăgășani".
- Natural Disasters: "Awareness and adaptation to climate change caused by natural disasters".

The workshops focused on various aspects of environmental protection and sustainable living, offering students the opportunity to learn and contribute to a better and more sustainable future.



28th March

On Thursday, March 28th, we organized two more engaging workshops at Brătianu Technological High School in Drăgășani, Vâlcea, as part of the Green Week program. From envisioning a greener city through our workshop "Forests and Terrestrial Life: Designing a Green City" to exploring sustainable energy pathways with "Green Energy Information: Methods of Obtaining Green Energy. Funding Opportunities." Our dedicated volunteers passionately explained each topic, ensuring clear understanding and igniting inspiration. Together, we are shaping a more environmentally conscious future.



29th March

The final mentoring session of the month at the Biblioteca Municipala focused on reflecting on March's activities. Participants provided feedback on the workshops and mentoring sessions while reviewing monthly reports to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

APRIL 2024

1st April

The Municipal Library in Drăgășani hosted a session focused on the impact of volunteering on personal and professional development. Eight participants engaged in discussions about how volunteering contributes to acquiring transferable career skills such as leadership, teamwork, and intercultural communication. They explored examples of non-formal skills developed through the project, including creativity, problem-solving, and project management.

2nd April

In preparation for the upcoming workshop, volunteers gathered at the Municipal Library to brainstorm themes and non-formal education methods. They selected an interactive approach based on group discussions and role-playing to engage participants in exploring entrepreneurship. The team also chose energizers to foster a positive atmosphere and strengthen connections among participants.

3rd April

At Tudor Vladimirescu Middle School, 31 children participated in an inspiring workshop on entrepreneurship from a young age. Through interactive activities, they learned what it means to be an entrepreneur and explored the process of creating a business. Volunteers from Turkey, Georgia, Egypt, and Azerbaijan shared their experiences, facilitating cultural exchange and inspiring creativity.





4th April

A customized presentation at Tudor Vladimirescu Middle School aimed to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit among 30 students. Volunteers utilized non-formal education methods, including interactive games and group challenges, to create a fun and educational atmosphere that encouraged creativity and collaboration.





5th April

During a mentorship session at the Biblioteca Municipală, eight participants focused on strategies for building intercultural relationships and promoting mutual understanding among volunteers and local communities. The discussions highlighted how the volunteers' diverse cultural backgrounds help bridge gaps, emphasizing the importance of empathy, open-mindedness, and communication in fostering collaboration.

11th April

The Romanian language course at Biblioteca Municipală helped eight volunteers enhance their language skills for better communication with local communities. Interactive exercises, including vocabulary building and conversational practice, allowed participants to engage with Romanian culture and language actively, boosting their confidence in everyday conversations.

12th April

In the mentorship session at the Biblioteca Municipală, eight participants discussed cultural similarities and differences they observed between Romania and their home countries. Volunteers reflected on how these cultural aspects influenced their interactions with locals.

and project colleagues, sharing challenges and positive experiences from their adaptation process.

15th April

A preparatory meeting for the seminar on April 17 took place at the Biblioteca Municipală, where eight volunteers finalized the event's objectives and discussed each participant's roles. They reviewed the themes to be addressed, ensuring that the planned non-formal educational methods were suitable for engaging the audience in an inclusive atmosphere.

16th April

On April 16, volunteers gathered at the Biblioteca Municipală to prepare for the seminar scheduled for the following day. They collaborated to refine the seminar's content and structure, discussing potential challenges and strategies for fostering open discussions among participants. The team brainstormed energizers and ice-breakers to facilitate better communication during the event.

17th April

At the "Youth in Dialogue with Democracy: Democracy and Human Rights" workshop, 48 students from Gib Mihaescu National College learned about human rights, social class roles, and economic status in democratic elections. The engaging discussions encouraged critical thinking and awareness of democratic principles among young participants.





18th April

The European Youth Week workshop at Biblioteca Municipala focused on volunteering for active citizenship, attracting 45 participants. The discussions delved into the meaning of volunteering and its benefits for individuals and communities, fostering a deeper understanding of civic engagement among the youth.



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19th April

During the mentorship session at the Biblioteca Municipala, eight volunteers reflected on their strengths and how to leverage them in project activities. The group discussed practical ways to align their skills with project tasks and explored strategies for self-development to maximize their contributions.

22nd April

Volunteers met at the Biblioteca Municipala to prepare for the upcoming workshop. They focused on theme development, the selection of non-formal education methods, and planning energizers to create an engaging atmosphere for participants. The collaborative planning aimed to enhance the workshop's effectiveness.

23rd April

At National College Gib Mihaescu, 23 students participated in a workshop centered on environmental issues. They were challenged to become Ministers of the Environment for a day, where they designed their ideal green city through creative activities and discussions about sustainability.



24th April

Volunteers gathered at the Biblioteca Municipala to prepare for the workshop scheduled for April 25. They focused on planning the content and method of delivery while finalizing logistics to ensure a smooth execution of the workshop.

25th April

Students at National College Gib Mihaescu participated in a nature-themed puzzle activity, reinforcing key environmental concepts learned in previous workshops. The interactive experience encouraged teamwork and critical thinking about environmental sustainability.



26th April

The mentorship session at the Biblioteca Municipala focused on how volunteering contributes to personal and professional development. Volunteers reflected on their growth and the challenges they faced during the project, discussing how their experiences shaped their future aspirations.

29th April

At the Biblioteca Municipala, volunteers explored their career orientation in a culturally diverse context. They discussed how to discover their strengths and professional interests through activities that reflect diversity and inclusion. The session also covered local and international resources available for career guidance.

30th April

The final mentorship session of April at the Biblioteca Municipala involved reflection and evaluation. Volunteers discussed the progress of their activities and shared their thoughts on their development during the project, identifying successes and areas for improvement.

MAY 2024

1st May 2024

This day was a national holiday in Romania, dedicated to celebrating Labor Day.

2nd May 2024

On May 2, we met at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani to review and practice various nonformal education methods in preparation for upcoming workshops. With nine participants, we focused on teamwork and active participation techniques, including the "Human Knot" activity. This exercise fostered collaboration and problem-solving skills in a fun, interactive way. We also discussed energizers to keep students engaged during workshops.

3rd May 2024

This day was a national holiday, known as Vinerea Mare, providing another day off for our participants.

6th May 2024

Easter holiday - day off for the participants.

7th May 2024

On May 7, we gathered at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani to refine our planning for upcoming workshops. With nine participants, we decided on the "World Café" method for interactive discussions, allowing students to rotate between various topics. We also chose the energizer "Group Juggle," which helped participants learn each other's names and foster group cohesion.

8th May 2024

We continued our workshop preparations at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani with nine participants, discussing how to present themes like cultural diversity and inclusion effectively. We decided to incorporate "Two Truths and a Lie" as an energizer and use role-play methods to enhance students' understanding of different cultural scenarios.

9th May 2024

Participants attended a regular Romanian language lesson at the Municipal Library, focusing on verb conjugation and daily routines. Through conversation exercises and group activities, we reinforced our speaking skills and gained confidence in using the language.

10th May 2024

We held a mentoring session at the Municipal Library, led by Viorel Trandafir, focusing on self-development through volunteering. We reflected on how applying new nonformal education methods has enhanced our teaching skills and adaptability in multicultural environments.

13th May 2024

Activity Description: The Mid-Term Meeting (MTM) commenced in Bucharest, where we reflected on our progress and alignment with project goals. Participants engaged in discussions about common challenges and shared experiences, while training sessions focused on personal development and documenting learning through Youthpass.



14th May 2024

The second day of the MTM featured interactive workshops that enhanced team dynamics and communication. We shared personal stories about overcoming challenges and evaluated how our volunteering experiences contributed to our development.

15th May 2024

The final day of the MTM centered on planning for the future, discussing life beyond the ESC project. Participants drafted their Youthpass documents and reflected on how their experiences would influence their future endeavors.

16th May 2024

We took time to reflect on the MTM at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani. With seven participants, we assessed our progress and discussed applying insights from the meeting to our ongoing projects, feeling renewed and motivated for our ESC journey.

17th May 2024

Our mentoring session on nonformal education at the Municipal Library focused on integrating various techniques into our projects. We discussed principles and practical examples to enhance participant engagement and project outcomes.

20th May 2024

We dedicated our time to workshop preparation at the Municipal Library in Drăgășani. We planned the structure of the event, including starting with Cultural Bingo and implementing the World Café method to promote cross-cultural understanding.

21st May 2024

Our day focused on enhancing Romanian language skills through interactive exercises and conversation practice. We aimed to improve vocabulary, grammar, and fluency in real-life contexts.

22nd May 2024

In our mentoring session at the Municipal Library, we explored the concept of solidarity and its application in our projects, discussing strategies for building cooperative relationships.

23rd May 2024

We prepared for workshops at the National College Gib Mihăescu, finalizing materials and coordinating with volunteers to ensure an effective presentation focused on cultural diversity.

24th May 2024

We conducted two workshops at the National College Gib Mihăescu in Drăgășani, engaging 54 students in activities that promoted cultural diversity through non-formal education methods. The workshops featured interactive elements like Cultural Bingo and presentations on various cultures.

27th May 2024

Our focus was on advancing Romanian language skills, exploring advanced grammar and vocabulary, and engaging in role-playing and group discussions to improve fluency.

28th May 2024

We prepared for workshops at Ioan Didicescu Gymnasium School, finalizing materials and ensuring an engaging environment for participants.

29th May 2024

We conducted a thorough review of the workshop content and practiced non-formal methods to ensure effective delivery for the upcoming sessions.

30th May 2024

We focused on enhancing Romanian language skills through conversation practice and grammar exercises, including dialogues and group discussions on cultural topics.

31st May 2024

Activity Description: We held a reflection session to evaluate the workshops conducted over the month. Discussions centered on feedback from participants, challenges encountered, and strategies for improvement in future sessions. We documented our learnings and prepared a report summarizing the impact of our activities on students' engagement and understanding of cultural diversity.

JUNE 2024

3rd June

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, a Non-Formal Education course was conducted with nine participants. The session focused on enhancing understanding of non-formal education methods, such as experiential learning and peer-to-peer teaching. Volunteers engaged in interactive discussions and activities that explored various approaches to facilitate engaging learning experiences.

4th June

A professional orientation course was held at the Municipal Library, attended by nine participants. This session emphasized exploring professional interests in the context of cultural diversity. Volunteers were encouraged to discover their strengths and professional aspirations through group discussions and reflective activities that promoted diversity and inclusion.

5th June

Volunteers met at the Municipal Library to prepare for an upcoming workshop. The team collaborated on establishing the theme, selecting energizer games, and organizing necessary materials. This preparatory session aimed to ensure a dynamic and engaging workshop experience for all participants.

6th June

At "Ioan Didicescu" Elementary School in Voicești, volunteers conducted workshops for primary school classes, reaching 50 children. Using non-formal methods, they promoted diversity, tolerance, and inclusion while creating an interactive and inspiring educational environment for the students.



10th June

Preparations continued for the upcoming workshop at the Municipal Library, where nine volunteers reviewed the agenda and planned activities. Adjustments were made based on previous feedback to foster a supportive environment encouraging creativity and collaboration.

11th June

At Batca Park, Drăgășani, a fun workshop on green cities was held with 45 young participants. The event began with energizer games, followed by discussions on the importance of a green city and a healthy environment. Through non-formal activities, participants created impressive posters conveying their ideas on this topic.



12th June

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Further preparations for the workshop took place at the Municipal Library, involving nine volunteers. The team reviewed materials, assigned roles for facilitators, and ensured all logistical aspects were in order to create a seamless experience for attendees.

13th June

At Batca Park in Drăgășani, a fun workshop focused on healthy living was conducted with local youth. The event kicked off with energizer games to promote friendship and a positive atmosphere, followed by discussions on the importance of a healthy lifestyle through engaging activities. Participants creatively showcased their messages about healthy living through poster-making.



14th June

A mentorship session on ecology and sustainability was hosted at the Municipal Library, led by Viorel Trandafir. Nine participants discussed the importance of ecology and green volunteering in their everyday lives, sharing personal insights and experiences gained through their volunteer work.

17th June

Volunteers organized an engaging environmental and sports workshop at Sutești Elementary School, with 42 students participating. This workshop, part of the European Erasmus+ project, included non-formal education methods where students drew posters of green cities and engaged in sports activities, fostering a fun learning environment.



18th June

A Romanian language course was conducted at the Municipal Library with nine participants. The course focused on enhancing language skills through interactive activities and discussions about Romanian culture, fostering a deeper understanding of the language in a cultural context.

19th June

At the Municipal Library, a career orientation course was held for nine participants, focusing on local and international resources for career guidance. Volunteers learned about various tools and organizations that support career development, including workshops, internships, and mentorship programs.

20th June

Another Non-Formal Education course was conducted at the Municipal Library. The session deepened participants' understanding of various non-formal education methods, including role-playing and simulation games, promoting critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving among volunteers.

21st June

A mentorship session on ecological practices was hosted at the Municipal Library by Viorel Trandafir, focusing on how volunteers could adapt and implement ecological practices learned during the project in their home countries.

24th June

Participants observed a day off in celebration of the national holiday, Rusalii.

25th June

A Romanian language course took place at the Municipal Library, where nine participants enhanced their conversational skills through interactive activities. Emphasis was placed on cultural nuances to help volunteers navigate social situations more effectively in Romania.

26th June

Romanian Flag Day was celebrated at the Municipal Library, emphasizing national identity and pride. The project highlighted its commitment to national values and promoting positive changes within communities through green and inclusive volunteering actions.



27th June

A session exploring the connection between volunteering and various career fields was held at the Municipal Library, attended by nine volunteers. Participants identified opportunities in ecological, educational, social, and cultural careers arising from their engagement in the project, sharing insights on how their volunteering experiences informed their career aspirations.

28th June

A monthly reflection and evaluation session was conducted at the Municipal Library. Volunteers shared their experiences, assessing the impact of their involvement in the project, identifying successes and areas for improvement, and fostering a sense of community among participants.

9th - 13th June

Lotfy attended the Mid-Term Meeting in Bucharest, essential for evaluating progress and planning the next project phase. The meeting focused on revisiting goals, aligning them with the current situation, and adjusting plans. Lotfy found the training sessions provided valuable tools for personal growth and guidance for updating the Youthpass. This experience fostered connections with other ESC volunteers, reflecting on their journeys and planning future steps.





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JULY 2024

1st July

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, a Romanian language and non-formal education course was conducted for nine participants. This session was crucial for ensuring that all international volunteers have equal access to resources, promoting their integration into local communities and enhancing their personal and professional development.



2nd July

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A professional orientation course was held at the Municipal Library, attended by nine participants. This session helped volunteers explore diverse career opportunities while discussing how to identify their strengths and interests through activities centered on inclusion and diversity.

3rd July

Volunteers participated in a non-formal education course at the Municipal Library, aimed at enhancing problem-solving skills, teamwork, and creativity. The session introduced new interactive methods applicable to their future volunteering activities.

4th July

An outdoor meeting took place at the Municipal Library, with nine participants. The fresh air and natural setting inspired engaging discussions about ongoing activities, methods used, and strategies for future improvement, all within the context of the "Start ESC" project.



5th July

A mentorship session was conducted at the Municipal Library, focusing on reflection and evaluation of the volunteers' experiences. The discussion revolved around their evolving understanding of ecology and sustainability through their project participation.

8th July

At the Municipal Library, volunteers continued their Romanian language course, learning essential vocabulary and expressions to aid their community interactions. These lessons play a vital role in their integration into local activities.

9th July

A professional orientation session was held at the Municipal Library for nine participants. This course helped volunteers explore career opportunities in diverse cultural settings, connecting their professional interests with values of inclusion and diversity.

10th July

Volunteers participated in a non-formal education course at the Municipal Library, designed to improve their skills in group dynamics and teamwork. The session utilized interactive exercises to explore non-formal education methods relevant to potential future projects.



11th July

At the Municipal Library, the volunteers worked intensively on developing the project magazine.

This activity allowed them to express their creativity and collaborate effectively as a team.



12th July

A mentorship session focusing on the evolution of volunteers' perceptions of ecology and sustainability was held at the Municipal Library. Participants shared green practices they applied during the project and discussed how these can be implemented in their home countries.

15th July

Volunteers continued their Romanian language lessons at the Municipal Library, enhancing their conversational skills and vocabulary for better community integration and participation in project activities.

16th July

At the Municipal Library, a professional orientation session was conducted, guiding volunteers in exploring how their project involvement shapes their professional paths, particularly in ecology, education, and social work.

17th July

A non-formal education course took place at the Municipal Library, featuring interactive group activities aimed at boosting creativity and teamwork skills among the nine participants.

18th July

In Horezu, volunteers attended a project that facilitated connections with local volunteers from Romania and the Republic of Moldova. This enriching experience fostered new relationships and expanded their community network.



19th July

A mentorship session at the Municipal Library emphasized applying ecological practices learned during the project to real-world situations, including strategies for promoting these green initiatives in their home countries.

22nd July

Volunteers continued their Romanian language course at the Municipal Library, focusing on expanding vocabulary and conversational skills to facilitate better integration and expression in day-to-day interactions.



23rd July

A professional orientation session was held at the Municipal Library, exploring how volunteers can connect their professional aspirations with their volunteering experience, particularly in social and environmental work.

24th July

Volunteers participated in a non-formal education course at the Municipal Library, engaging in role-playing and scenario-based learning activities designed to enhance decision-making and leadership skills within a collaborative environment.

25th July

At the Municipal Library, volunteers celebrated Romanian Flag Day, engaging in discussions about the significance of cultural identity and symbolism in Romania.

26th July

A mentorship session focused on progress and lessons learned throughout the month was held at the Municipal Library. Participants reflected on their contributions and outlined future goals in their respective fields of interest.

29th July

Volunteers continued their Romanian lessons at the Municipal Library, enhancing their communication skills while learning more about Romania's culture and history.

30th July

At the Municipal Library, a professional orientation session explored how volunteers can leverage their project experience to advance their careers in environmental work, education, and social services.

31st July

The final non-formal education session of the month took place at the Municipal Library, focusing on using games and energizers in team-building activities, equipping volunteers with tools for future projects.

AUGUST 2024

1st August

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, discussions on non-formal educational methods were conducted with nine participants. This session focused on the interactive methods used in schools, which have increased student engagement. The aim is to gather this information for a project magazine to share with other educators.



2nd August

A mentorship session took place at the Municipal Library, attended by nine participants. The session provided an opportunity for volunteers to reflect on their progress and explore new eco-friendly practices they could implement in their home communities.

5th August

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, a Romanian language course was conducted for nine participants. This session focused on improving communication skills and facilitating integration into the local community, essential for the volunteers' personal development.



6th August

A non-formal education course was held at the Municipal Library for nine participants. The activities aimed to develop creativity and teamwork skills, preparing volunteers for future collaborative efforts.

7th August

At the Municipal Library, a career orientation course was conducted for nine participants. This session provided insights into careers in ecology and education, highlighting how volunteers can leverage their experiences for future job opportunities.

8th August

Volunteers continued their Romanian language course at the Municipal Library, focusing on enhancing their communication skills to facilitate better integration into the local community.

9th August

A mentorship session took place at the Municipal Library, attended by nine participants. The session involved assessing the volunteers' progress and discussing future plans related to ecology and sustainable development.

12th August

Celebrating International Youth Day at the Municipal Library, nine volunteers discussed the challenges and opportunities faced by young people today. This session fostered collaboration for a better future among international participants.



13th August

A non-formal education course was held at the Municipal Library for nine participants. This session included interactive activities focused on developing creativity and teamwork problem-solving skills.

14th August

At the Municipal Library, a career orientation course was conducted for nine participants. The session aimed to identify career opportunities in ecology and education for volunteers, enhancing their future career prospects.

15th August

Volunteers continued their Romanian language course at the Municipal Library, further developing their communication skills for daily interactions within the local community.

16th August

A mentorship session took place at the Municipal Library, attended by nine participants. The focus was on assessing the volunteers' contributions and evaluating their mentorship and leadership skills developed during their volunteering activities.

19th August

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, a Romanian language course was held for nine participants. The session aimed to improve vocabulary and fluency, enhancing communication in social and professional contexts.

20th August

Volunteers participated in a non-formal education course at the Municipal Library, focused on interactive games and team-building exercises to reinforce their learning experiences.

21st August

At the Municipal Library, a career orientation course was conducted for nine participants. The discussions focused on how volunteers can apply the skills gained through their service to future career opportunities.

22nd August

Joining the "Run for Sport, Run for Solidarity" project, volunteers spent a day engaging in tennis and friendship activities in Drăgășani, fostering bonds of solidarity and community spirit.



23rd August

Volunteers focused on organizing essential documents for the project's success at the Municipal Library. This activity aimed to contribute to a greener and more inclusive future through effective documentation practices.



26th August

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, a Romanian language course was conducted for nine participants. The focus was on vocabulary improvement and enhancing fluency in conversations among volunteers.

27th August

Volunteers engaged in a non-formal education course at the Municipal Library, concentrating on role-playing games and critical thinking exercises to develop their problem-solving skills.

28th August

Career counseling and orientation activities took place in Drăgășani, with discussions centered on future career and study opportunities for volunteers after their service ends.



29th August

Volunteers continued their journey in improving Romanian at the Municipal Library, focusing on dialogue and understanding cultural nuances to enhance their communication skills.

30th August

The closing mentorship session for August was held at the Municipal Library, attended by nine participants. The session focused on discussing the results achieved and planning the final stage of the project. Diana finished her volunteering stage.



SEPTEMBER 2024

2nd September

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, a professional orientation course was conducted with eight participants. This session focused on how ecological and sustainable values can influence career choices, including discussions on green jobs and industries contributing to environmental sustainability.

3rd September

A mentoring session took place at the Municipal Library, attended by eight participants. This session covered leadership, community involvement, and the importance of intercultural collaboration in fostering sustainable development.

4th September

At the Municipal Library in Drăgășani, another professional orientation course was held for eight participants. This session emphasized the green economy and sustainability in various industries, focusing on how young people can contribute to environmental conservation through their future careers.



5th September

We promoted volunteering for a greener and more inclusive future at the Municipal Library, engaging with fifty young people from Drăgășani (aged 18-30).

Flyers were distributed with essential information about European Solidarity Corps volunteering opportunities.

6th September

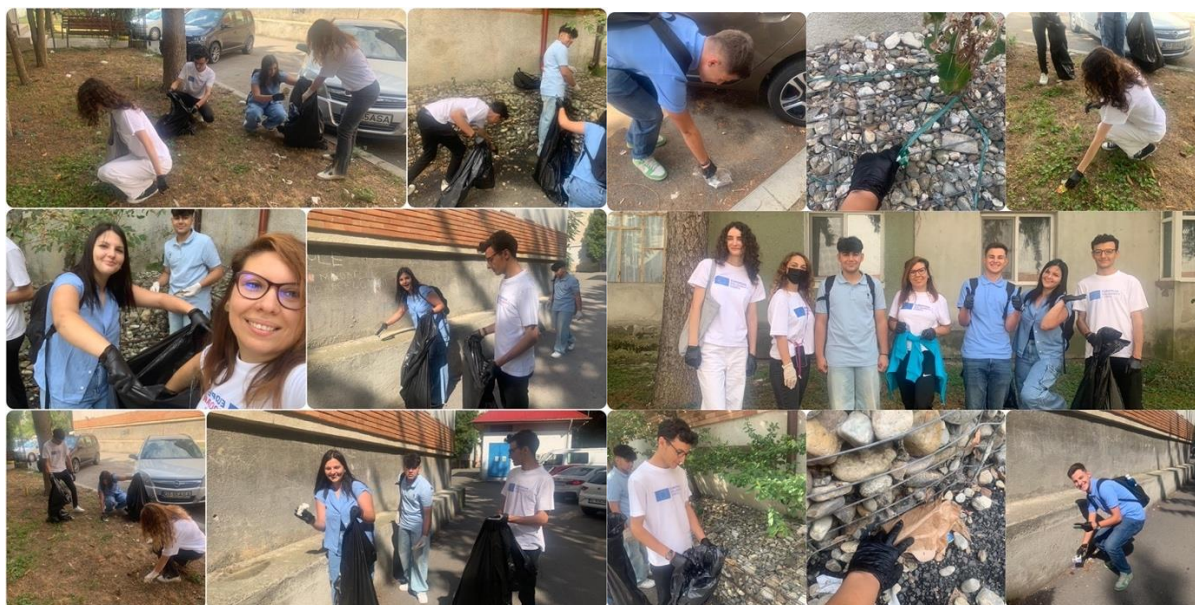
A mentoring session was conducted at the Municipal Library, attended by eight participants. This session discussed how leadership and teamwork can help promote sustainable initiatives at a community level.

9th September

At the Municipal Library, a professional orientation course was held for eight participants. The session explored green jobs and sectors supporting ecological balance, with practical examples on pursuing careers in sustainability.

10th September

Volunteers and local youth participated in an environmental cleanup at the Municipal Library, raising awareness about the importance of environmental protection and the need to stop littering.



11th September

At the Municipal Library, a professional orientation course was held for eight participants. The session focused on the importance of ecological practices in business and industry, helping students understand how sustainability can guide future career decisions.

12th September

Volunteers planted autumn flowers at the "Green Corner" of Tudor Vladimirescu Secondary School, attended by eight participants. This initiative aimed to leave a lasting impact on the community and symbolize the project's commitment to sustainability.



13th September

A mentoring session took place at the Municipal Library, attended by eight participants. The discussion focused on community leadership, the role of youth in fostering local development, and the value of intercultural collaboration for inclusive growth.

16th September

At the Municipal Library, a professional orientation course was conducted for eight participants. This session highlighted how sustainability can be incorporated into professional choices, featuring examples from green industries and social enterprises.



17th September

Isa, the Turkish volunteer, completed his internship at the Municipal Library, earning his Youthpass certificate and reflecting on the impact of his volunteering experience in Romania.

18th September

Afsana, the volunteer from Azerbaijan, completed her volunteering assignment at the Municipal Library, receiving her Youthpass certificate.

Afsana shared reflections on her cultural experiences and finding her spouse in Romania.



19th September

Salome, the Georgian volunteer, completed her volunteering period at the Municipal Library, receiving her Youthpass certificate and reflecting on her experience and contributions to the community.



20th September

Asmaa, the volunteer from Egypt, completed her service at the Municipal Library, reflecting on her experience, teamwork, and the kindness of the Romanian people.

23rd September

At the Municipal Library, a professional orientation course was held, focusing on sustainable business practices and how ecological values are integrated into modern enterprises, with case studies.

24th September

A mentoring session was conducted at the Municipal Library, encouraging participants to take an active role in their communities and focusing on leadership in sustainable development projects.

25th September



Lotfy, Gülçin, Nayra and Ameen completed their volunteering periods at the Municipal Library, receiving their Youthpass certificates.



Thoughts

from Our Volunteers at the end of the project



Diana: “As I reflect on my journey, I realize how profoundly Romania has shaped me. The friendships I forged with volunteers from all walks of life became a source of inspiration and strength. Together, we explored the vibrant culture, history, and landscapes of Romania, each new city offering a unique experience that deepened my appreciation for this incredible country.

Beyond the adventures, my time in Romania taught me the true value of non-formal education. I discovered the art of crafting lessons that ignite curiosity and foster creativity, transforming learning into an engaging and

joyous process. This experience wasn't just about gaining knowledge—it was about understanding how to inspire others and bring out the best in them.

Romania, with its warmth and beauty, became a second home to me. Every moment, from the quiet reflections in its picturesque towns to the lively conversations with new friends, filled my heart with gratitude. The experiences I gathered there were not just fleeting moments; they were life lessons that will stay with me forever.

Returning to Georgia, I carry a piece of Romania with me—a piece that has enriched my soul and broadened my horizons. The memories of my time there will always be a source of joy, reminding me of a chapter in my life that was truly beautiful and deeply meaningful.”

Isa: “Living in Romania gave me the chance to learn more about the culture and improve my Romanian language skills. I also made great friendships with other volunteers and the people we worked with, which made this experience even more special.

Throughout the project, I learned a lot about non-formal education, using creative methods to promote inclusion and diversity. We also focused on creating a greener and more sustainable environment, which made me more aware of the impact we can have on our surroundings.

The sense of teamwork and solidarity has had a big impact on me. I will always remember my time in Romania and the wonderful people I met. This experience has helped me grow, and I’m excited to use what I’ve learned in the future.”





Afsana: “I remember when I first came to Romania; I didn’t know what awaited me. I arrived with hope and the joy of being accepted. The warmth of the people and new friendships helped me adapt quickly to this country. I volunteered with children in schools, and through this, my experience grew. I believe it will greatly contribute to my future job applications.

My work in the project had a significant impact on the community, helping to bring people together and supporting the development of young minds. Who would have thought that it was my destiny to come to Romania, gain experience, and find my spouse and soul mate? Yes, I became a Romanian bride 😊 Now, I live in Romania and am very happy.

I would like to thank this institution for making it all possible by choosing me, and I express my gratitude. Romania is a fairy tale, and I have just begun my journey in it. I wish everyone success on their path to destiny. :)”

Salome: “As I conclude my year-long ESC project in Romania, I’m overwhelmed with gratitude for everything this incredible experience has given me. Over the past year, I had the privilege to volunteer at a local school, working closely with students and teachers to create a positive impact. Teaching, organizing activities, and helping students overcome challenges has been such a rewarding journey. Watching them grow and learn has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life.

But beyond the volunteering work, what truly stands out are the lifelong friendships I’ve made along the way. The amazing people I’ve met—fellow volunteers, local staff, and students—have become a second family to me. These bonds are something I will carry with me forever, no matter where life takes me.

Romania’s beauty, rich culture, and the warmth of its people have made this experience unforgettable. From exploring breathtaking landscapes to participating in local traditions, I’ve grown not only professionally, but personally as well.

To my fellow volunteers, coordinator, mentor, and the amazing school community—thank you for your kindness and support. This chapter will always have a special place in my heart. If you’re considering an ESC project, go for it! You’ll grow in ways you never imagined.” 🌍✨





Asmaa: "In this project, the best part was the strong collaboration and the culture of knowledge-sharing that allowed everyone to grow. I contributed by fostering teamwork and supporting others to reach their full potential."

The kindness of the people here is truly remarkable. During my time in the hospital, many strangers tried to help me, and some even visited me, which deeply touched me. I cannot forget the unwavering support of Mrs. Anca, Ionel, and Cătălin, who stood by me through that difficult time. Their generosity and care made all the difference."

Lotfy: "Concluding this 9-month journey as a psychology teacher and volunteer in Romania, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for everything this incredible experience has brought into my life. Coming from Egypt, I had the privilege of conducting activities at a school, bringing a positive impact to the community."

Beyond the classrooms, what I will cherish most are the lifelong friendships and deep connections I have made with the wonderful people in Romania. Fellow volunteers, the hosting organization, students, and community members have become my second family, and these bonds will stay with me wherever I go.

During my time here, I had the chance to travel extensively, exploring not just Romania but also neighboring countries. The breathtaking landscapes, rich culture, and warmth of the Romanian people made every moment unforgettable. Personally and professionally, I have grown in ways I could not have imagined.

I thank from the bottom of my heart my fellow volunteers, coordinators, mentors, and the wonderful school community for their support and kindness. This chapter will always have a special place in my heart. If anyone is considering such an opportunity, do not hesitate! This experience will transform you in the most incredible ways."





Gülçin: "For the past year, I have been volunteering in Romania with a project coordinated by the European Solidarity Corps, and it has been a deeply rewarding experience. As this is my third time in Romania, I have become familiar with the language and culture, which has allowed me to connect more easily with the people around me. The project focuses on visiting various schools, where I work with students from preschool to high school, engaging them in activities and teaching nonformal subjects. These moments spent with the students, watching them grow and develop new skills, have been incredibly fulfilling. Each interaction leaves me feeling more connected to both the students and the community. Romania, with its welcoming people and unique traditions, now feels like a second home, and I've built friendships and memories here that I will carry with me forever."

Nayra: "I'm incredibly grateful for the experience in Romania, which enriched my skills in volunteering, leadership, and communication, and fueled my passion for making a difference in society."



Ameen: "Stepping out of my comfort zone during my volunteer experience in Romania broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of global issues."



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