



Erasmus+

ONCE UPON A TIME...THE SEA

PROJECT FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH ERASMUS + PROGRAM
SCHOOL EDUCATION, INTER-SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROJECTS
REFERENCE NUMBER: 2018-1-RO01-KA220-049131

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Accepted,
Principal,
Prof. Dănila Simona

**Report on LTT activities developed between May 13 to 16, 2019,
in Medgidia, Romania**

Once upon a time... the Sea ERASMUS+ Project is developed between se 01.09.2018 – 31.08.2020, as strategic partnership between a Romanian school, as coordinating school and partner schools from Italy, Portugal and Spain, with the purpose to involve students in actions to form skills in marine environment protection and responsible ecological, social and civic behavior.

Learning/Teaching/Training activities proposed by Școala Gimnazială *Lucian Grigorescu* from Medgidia, Romania, and organized in accordance with the application form, were developed under the theme *THE SEA – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE*, by students and teachers from the host school, 6 students (C3) and 6 teachers (C4) from partner schools.

C3 – Learning Activities for Students

Monday, 13 May – The guests were greeted by the project team of the host country. After visiting the euro-classes, they were invited in the Biology lab which hosted the symposium *The Sea – Past, Present and Future*, where students from each partner school presented themed materials, following documentation and information selection activities so that they could get the attention and interest of the participants. All students were appreciated for their presentations: .ppts, videos, photos, slogans.

After the symposium, all students were organized in mixed teams and participated in lessons of English, History and integrated optional (literature, art and technology). The activities were meant to prepare the students to actively participate in learning about the sea according to CLIL methodology and also use their communication and teamwork skills. They all appreciated the organization, work environment and the quality of the acquired information.

The day continued with a visit to the Town Hall where the guests showed their interest in finding out how the local authorities are involved in supporting curricular and extracurricular activities of the schools in town. The meeting was recorded by the local TV stations ALPHA MEDIA and MEDIA TV, which interviewed the participants for the news broadcasts.

The afternoon included a documentation activity in *Cheile Dobrogei*, a unique place in Romania, a great opportunity to find out information on the



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history of the Black Sea, as here are atolls from corals left by the withdrawal of the sea.

The visit to *Histria Citadel* nearby, the oldest urban settlement in Romania, was an invitation to find out aspect of the local history. Founded by the Greek colonists around 630 B.C. as Black Sea port, the city has an uninterrupted development for almost 1,300 years until the Byzantine period and was the first place coins have ever been minted on Romanian territory, with the town symbols, eagle and dolphin.

Tuesday, 14 May, was dedicated to practical activities. Mixed student teams participated in a sailing lesson alongside their peers from the Ship Modelling Club from Medgidia, on *Domneasca Lake*, near Medgidia. It was a great opportunity to learn new things. The instructor, also secretary of the Romanian Ship Modelling Federation, provided explanations which contributed to learning new content and expanding their scientific horizons. The students were awarded certificates for their newly acquired skills and a jubilee medal on the Federation's 50th anniversary.

In the afternoon, the students came back to school for a mural painting workshop guided by our Art teacher where they learned about its specific elements and technique as well as famous such artwork in the world. Theory was turned into practice via colors combined into a marine wall painting onto the school wall.

The day ended with an artistic show performed by students' ensembles activating in "I.N. Roman" Artistic Club, some of them current or former students of *Lucian Grigorescu School*.

Wednesday, 15 May, started with an interactive lesson in the Navy Museum of Constanța, where they learned about collections of old ceramic collections, ship models, navigation instruments, old military equipment, documents and photos, uniforms, flags and pavilions, ship parts and various tools to explore underwater.

The activities continued with a show at the *Dolphinarium*, which was inaugurated in 1972, the first museum of its kind in Romania and South-East Europe. The dolphins *Ni Ni* and *Chen Chen* provided a great show. At the same time the students were offered information on the marine mammals research and studies which enabled a better knowledge of the conservation and preservation of marine environment.

The visit to "Mircea cel Bătrân" Naval Academy turned into a lesson in navigation and naval equipment. The participants experienced part of the training of future naval engineers and technicians. The star of the visit was the *integrated ship navigation simulator* where the students assisted in performing various virtual maneuvers of a ship.



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The day ended with a trip to Mamaia, the star resort of the Romanian seaside.

On **Thursday, 16 May**, there were organized educational games in cooperation with the volunteers from *Mare Nostrum* NGO Constanța, who presented the practical side of getting solutions for marine waste and awareness of environmental problems from coastal areas. The activities started with a 3D film projection – *Underwater World* – in order to familiarize students with underwater life in seas and oceans. For half an hour they could feel like divers in Jacques Yves Cousteau's underwater world.

Then there was a contest to assess the main aspects of the mobility activities, which captivated students in mixed teams who did their best to answer correctly. Everybody was a winner as they acquired a lot of information on the past, present and future of the seas and oceans, as well as teamwork and good communication beyond geographical and cultural barriers.

The relaxing afternoon activity turned the students into observers of the Romanian seaside aboard a boat. From Mangalia marina, they could see the shipyard and through what looks like a fjord – *Limanu Lake*, and sailed alongside *2 Mai* and *Costinești* resorts. The entire area is part of a special protected area. Once in Constanța, they could admire the architecture of the *Casino*, symbol – building of the city, walking the seafront promenade they enjoyed the sunset and silence.

The day ended with the award ceremony and the *Black Sea Tombola* with surprise objects complementary with the project theme, purchased or made by students, parents or teachers from the host school. The students were congratulated by the school principal and urged to love and protect the sea.

The diversity of learning activities contributed to forming a healthy attitude towards marine and coastal area, being aware that their protection should be a priority for all marine neighboring countries. They should militate to change the current practices and attitudes of the local communities and stakeholders on the conservation and rational use of natural resources from seas and oceans.

The students have also improved their digital, communication and English skills in new contexts, becoming aware of the opportunities provided in order to study and/or work in a global environment.

There has been good cooperation via English language and work in mixed teams led to promotion of human values such as tolerance, generosity, freedom of speech, respect towards environment and people, self-confidence and friendship.



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C4 – LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS

Monday, 13 May – The 18 teachers from the partner schools were greeted by the project team of the host country and invited to visit the school. There were given explanations on the organization of the teaching process which formed an image on the classes with students aged 6 to 14. They were invited in the Biology lab which hosted the symposium *The Sea – Past, Present and Future*, where teachers from each partner school presented themed materials, on the national policies for marine environment protection. The materials were uploaded on the project website for all interested parties.

The symposium was followed by participation in lessons of English, Biology and Step by Step, held by teachers from host school. They had the opportunity to know various active – participative lessons of teaching – learning – evaluation, efficiently integrating IT tools and educational platforms.

The following talks emphasized on the exchange of good practices and finding the effective work methods to contribute to the students' better understanding of the contents, taking into account the particulars of each teaching system from Italy, Spain, Portugal and Romania.

The day continued with an official visit to the Town Hall where the guests showed their interest in finding out how the local authorities are involved in supporting curricular and extracurricular activities of the schools in town. The meeting was recorded by the local TV stations ALPHA MEDIA and MEDIA TV, which interviewed the participants for the news broadcasts.

The day included a documentation visit to *Cheile Dobrogei* Natural Reserve, a unique area of chalky rocks from Jurassic area which provides information on the past of the Black Sea. The fossil species are nowhere else to be found in Romania, as it is former coral reef of the Black Sea. The day continued with a visit to *Histria Citadel*, dating back from the 7th century B.C., founded by the Greek colonists from Milet, and also the oldest urban settlement in Romania.

Tuesday, 14 May, was dedicated to practical activities. The guests participated in a sailing lesson guided by the Ship Modelling Club from Medgidia, on *Domneasca Lake*, near Medgidia. It was a great opportunity to learn new things. The instructor, also secretary of the Romanian Ship Modelling Federation, provided explanations which contributed to learning new content and expanding their scientific horizons. The students were awarded certificates for their newly acquired skills and a jubilee medal on the Federation's 50th anniversary.

In the afternoon, there were training activities held by representatives of the District Educational Resources and Assistance, that is a school psychologist and



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a support teacher from the host school. The participants had the opportunity to discover and discuss the basic principles of an inclusive school and the curricular adaptation for special needs students as well as their integration in mass education.

In order to better know the local and regional specific, all guests attended an artistic show performed by students' ensembles activating in "I.N. Roman" Artistic Club, some of them current or former students of *Lucian Grigorescu* School. All guests appreciated the show, sang and danced together with the performers.

The day ended with a cultural visit to *Abdul Medgid Mosque*, also known as *The Big Mosque*, a religious venue for the local Muslim community built between 1859 – 1865 by the Ottoman Government, presently preserved in its original state.

Wednesday, 15 May, started with a training course entitled *Biodiversity of Marine Environment. European Conservation and Protection Policies*, organized in partnership with "Ovidius" University – Faculty Of Natural Science. Representatives of Biology and Geography chairs lectured and debated on the changes in marine ecosystems near their residence and action taken to properly exploit marine resources.

The meeting was followed by a show at the *Dolphinarium* and a visit to the *Micro-Reservation*, important venues in the culture and science of Constanța.

Time spent at "Mircea cel Bătrân" Naval Academy turned into a lesson in navigation, hydrography and naval equipment provided by professionals. The participants experienced the knowledge and the training of future naval engineers and technicians, so that they may be able to sail any ship in any conditions. The star of the visit was the *integrated ship navigation simulator* where the guests learned about the automated equipment on board and witnessed a simulation of various maneuvers of a ship.

The day ended with a trip to Mamaia, the star resort of the Romanian seaside where everybody had non formal activities on the seashore.

On **Thursday, 16 May**, the activity *Ecological Education in Coastal Areas – Examples of Good Practices* included a partnership with *Mare Nostrum* Constanța NGO, where the participants discussed about the concept of education of sustainable development and compared relevant aspects from their areas. The game approach of challenging topics related to sustainable development enjoyed great success. All people admitted that educational games may be inspiring in planning student activities via *learning by doing*.

The day included the workshop *Theater as form of learning*, where participants discussed about theater as learning tool and debated on the writing of a themed play *Once upon a time... the SEA*, as final output to conclude the project activities.



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In the afternoon the guests visited Sts. Peter and Paul Church, nearby the host school, which has an ongoing *After School* partnership with the host school for all primary students from underprivileged families. They also had the opportunity to know the history and architecture of the church as well as its educational and social service provided to the community.

The afternoon activity was relaxing, and the participants turned into fine observers of Romanian seaside from the deck of a boat. The starting point was Mangalia marina, alongside the shipyard to something of a fjord – *Limanu Lake* and *2 Mai* and *Costinești* resorts. The entire area is part of a special protected area. Once in Constanța, they could admire the architecture of the *Casino*, symbol – building of the city, walking the seafront promenade they enjoyed the sunset and silence.

The day ended with the award ceremony when the host school principal congratulated the participants for their support in the activities and emphasized on the improvement in the participants' communication and English skills and, more importantly, finding new effective ways to work with students and cooperate with their peers.

There has been good cooperation via English language and work in mixed teams led to promotion of human values such as tolerance, generosity, freedom of speech, respect towards environment and people, self-confidence and friendship.

Reminiscing the most beautiful moments of the activities, the project coordinators from all countries mentioned the mobility as a remarkable experience, based on great cooperation between both students and teachers, expressed their gratitude to those involved in organizing and performing attractive and interesting activities in accordance with the major project objective that is forming a responsible civic behavior and creating a good school inclusive environment.

We consider that the valorization of the entire experience and knowledge acquired following these activities will contribute to improving teaching strategies and increase prestige for each participating school in their community. The exchange of good ideas and practices led to the discovery of new effective ways to motivate and stimulate students to become future responsible European citizens, receptive to the challenges of the environment, as guarantee for sustainable development.

Project Coordinator,

Prof. Ciocan Emilia