



Erasmus+

Greetings from tomorrow

LEARNING/ TEACHING/ TRAINING ACTIVITY:

“Global Warming and Communities Today”

Brétigny-sur-Orge, France, 24th – 28th April 2017

Travel Diary – Romanian Team

The students in the Romanian team: Averescu Ștefana Ioana Rafaela, Rogojină Diana Maria and Ionescu Ioan Vlad are going to write about one of the most impressive experiences which we have ever taken part in. The title of this project, “Greeting from Tomorrow”, makes us think of very common issues in our contemporary modern society, namely environment protection, pollution, global warming, recycling. These three simple words in the title should make us think more deeply about the gravity of the situation which Earth is in nowadays and we need to look for solutions to prevent pollution, global warming, in other words, destroying our planet ourselves.

We will present our one-week trip, together with our teachers Daniela Busuioc and Constantin Hriscu, in a suburb of Paris, named Brétigny-sur-Orge, which is a peaceful place surrounded by a lot of natural landscapes, the predominant colour of these landscapes being green (proving that it is a clean town), with hardworking and wonderful people. We also had activities based on the topic of the project in the capital of France where we could admire a lot of buildings with various types of architecture and different cultures from everywhere in the world.

But now, let’s get back to our schedule and the activities which we did.

Sunday, 23rd April

At 4:30 a.m., our team had to meet in front of the International Airport Iași to check-in and to say goodbye to our parents. We were very excited because it was the starting point for our “adventure”. We flew up to Bucharest and from there we took the next plane to Paris. When we arrived at “Charles de Gaulle” International Airport, we were surprised by the vastness of the airport and we were anxious to get our luggage and to get to know our hosts.



Monday, 24th April

In the morning, after a long day of travelling by plane, we went to Jean-Pierre Timbaud High School from Brétigny-sur-Orge. There we met the other teachers and students from the other partner countries in this Erasmus+ project. Each team presented a short video about their country, city and school, the activities they usually do and the places that should be visited.



In the afternoon, we participated in a workshop: “What can we do to reduce global warming?”, with discussions about the “green” transportation and renewable energies in our cities today, and went for a rally in Paris city centre. There we visited the Eiffel Tower which is an impressive building which offers visitors amazing views. After visiting the Eiffel Tower, our hosts took us for a walk through Paris.





Tuesday, 25th April

All the participants in the project had to meet in front of the school at 8:30 a.m. to prepare for a new activity. We were divided into groups. We were led into a class where we had a nice activity which consisted in creating different types of masks and hats from recycled materials. We happened to witness a special day in their high-school because all the students and teachers organized a parade with various and colourful customs and masks.



Then we participated in a science activity in a chemistry laboratory where we learnt how to build molecules of gases with greenhouse effects which are responsible for global warming. The activity was based on the most important gases of this kind, namely: carbon dioxide (which has the strongest impact on the environment), methane and water vapours.



After the lunch break, we visited the high-school together with our hosts and our teachers.



Then we took the train to Chamarande, where we did another outdoor activity: “Why is it important to protect biodiversity”. We could admire a charming castle and its amazing park (we could say that “it was heaven on earth”).



Wednesday, 26th April

All of us had to meet in front of the train station in Brétigny-sur-Orge and from there we got on another train which had Versailles as destination. We were challenged to answer the question: “To what extent can sustainable tourism help protect heritage sites?” It was a long journey of approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, but when we arrived at the



Palace, we were shocked by its immensity, its gardens and parks which are impressive and unique.

Thursday, 27th April

In the morning we took the train and went to the Louis Vuitton Foundation. We were going to participate in the workshop “How can a building be more efficient today?” We were really impressed! At first sight, it didn’t seem to be a building because of its architecture. The guide gave us information about the history of the building and about its modern and unique architecture. A really interesting fact is that its architecture is based on the “Sea universe”, in other words the building is similar to a ship. What I noticed, besides the wonderful views around, was the fact that on the top of the building were terraces with circuits which capture the rain water to be used in washing the building, in watering the gardens around the building and in providing the waterfall in front of the building. We also have seen exhibitions on the history of black people in Africa. They had such a dangerous and bad life.



After visiting the foundation, we took a cruise on the Seine. The main discussion topic during this outdoor activity was “Long-term biodiversity preservation along the Seine”.



Friday, 28th April

Unfortunately, this was the last day of activities when we could enjoy other awesome moments. We took parts in activities organized to celebrate Earth Day (22nd April). We created some posters and slogans, we rehearsed the lyrics of the project song and the dance (the selection of the song, the lyrics and the dance had been made by the students and teachers in the Romanian team, helped by other students in our school). We wanted everything to be perfect, that is why we rehearsed a lot for the flash mob.



In the afternoon, we had another beautiful activity: we planted a tree in the school yard as a symbol of our project.



In the evening, we participated in the final party and dinner at the host partner school. We danced, ate, enjoyed the atmosphere, but the most wonderful thing was that we stayed together. At the end of the evening we exchanged addresses on various social networks, gave each other a lot of hugs and we were very upset because we didn't want to say "goodbye" to the people in this project...



Saturday, 29th April

It was a very shiny day, but we were sad because we talked with our hosts and we had to say "good bye" for the last time and, also, this was the last journey through France which brought us back to the airport and then home. On the plane, we talked to each other about all the beautiful moments during the week and we could hardly wait to see our family and friends again and to tell them everything we did in detail.



CONCLUSION

For our team, this was an amazing activity. We could improve our English communication skills, made a lot of new friends, discovered various interesting buildings, cultures from everywhere and from all the times and we could experience another type of educational institution. We hope that this wasn't the first and the last time when we saw our new friends and, also, that we will be able to participate in other similar projects!



We want to give a lot of thanks to our teachers for their support and for trusting us, to our nice hosts who took good care of us these days, and to the coordinators of this project who gave us the chance to participate in this memorable event in our lives!