

EUROPEAN SOCIAL OVERVIEW THROUGH MY LENS

JULY 11-16
Săcueni



Erasmus+

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Erasmus+ Youth Exchange European Social Overview through My Lens

Participants

HUNGARY

Manuel Farkas
Andrea Keresztesi
Béla Lakatos
Róbert Lakatos
Péter Pápista
Ákos Pintér
Dávid Rostás
Kristóf Tulipán

ROMANIA

Dániel Gábor Barabás
Orsolya Bíró
Barbara Cheregi
Ákos László Madarász
Kristóf Nagy
Anita Rác
Silvia Jolán Szabó
Henrietta Réka Vida

SLOVAKIA

Margaréta Bielaková
Michaela Ďuračková
Klaudia Habová
Mária Hrkľová
Lukáš Hrošovský
František Kekely
Adriána Prokopová
Romana Valková

Project Coordinator:

Tímea Aszalós

Brochure design: Csaba-Levente Ferencz

European Social Overview through My Lens

The **Erhangja Association** organized a mobility involving 24 unemployed youth from Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, between 11-16 July, 2015.

The project addressed local, European and global issues, such as youth unemployment, poverty and discrimination against Roma youth. During the youth mobility the representatives from the 3 countries presented and discussed the question of unemployment and poverty in their country, searched for and identified solutions to these problems. They also learnt to make a documentary video about Săcueni and its surroundings that presented the problems faced by locals day by day. The film offered a panoramic view on the economic, social, educational situation of the urban and rural areas of Săcueni. By the documentary the organizers wanted to help the youngsters to acquire the know-how of the realization of videos, interviews, documentaries, newspaper articles (namely the use of the camera, addressing questions properly, editing and cutting footage). The reason for this is that these are skills that will help the young person to start learning professions that will support their future employment assertion. We encouraged them to have a liking to become journalists, correspondents, reporters, writers, photographers, bloggers, etc. During the mobility the youth accumulated only very basic skills related to writing articles or making interviews and filmed materials but the mobility gave boost to these young people to complete a course related to any of the touched mass media areas and commit themselves in these in the future, thus avoiding unemployment.

Also through the exchange and the documentary we wanted to motivate the participants and the community members to eliminate prejudices against Roma youngsters and to be more tolerant with culturally and socially disadvantaged people around themselves.

The project also included activities which aimed to support the achievement of intercultural dialogue between young people from Hungarian, Roma, Romanian and Slovak ethnic groups. The project was funded by the European Union.

the organizers

Colourful Saturday – and it's just the beginning



The first Erasmus+ program just started in Săcueni on Saturday, at the youth centre of the Reformed Church.

The local participants had breakfast together with the Slovak and Hungarian youngsters; later on the groups had lots of games for getting to know each other and to learn the names. Then followed the presentation about the associations so we could see who works what? After the lunch there was still a short time for games in the courtyard, and then the participants went to see the city by solving creative and challenging tasks. This also helped in becoming friends. Another group managed to

get bicycles for the sightseeing. This is how the storytelling and good atmosphere of Saturday night was formed.

The groups returned to the youth centre a bit tired, but with funny and nice memories, then the supper followed. The

multicultural night began with the arrangement of a room and the presentation of the typical sweets, drinks and snacks of the represented countries. The night was spent with lots of laughter and discussions.

Barbara Cheregi



From Making Intercultural Friendships to the Making of Interviews



The first day ended with a frenetic intercultural night. We had the occasion not only to taste new foods and drinks, but also to discover that we have similar religious songs indifferent of language or confession. It was elevating to see and to hear that we understand each other also without words, and the music and the faith binds us together.

The second morning began with a bit of attunement. On the lawn next to the youth centre and the church we helped each other to be charged with energy by different games. After lots of laughter and joy we prepared for the work. The groups of the three nations presented how is the situation of the unemployed and the youth people in Romania, Slovakia and Hungary. We discovered many similarities that are not a miracle since we are all living in Eastern-Central Europe. We meet alike challenges and we see the problems similarly.

After the deep discussions and touching moments the group defined those four problems that they meet in the everyday life. In small

groups we elaborated the topics of discrimination, emigration, corruption and the lack of infrastructure by role-play. Beyond the presentation we also began to look for solutions.

Since our accommodation and the place where we do the program is next to a church, the participants decided to go to the reformed worship, which was uplifting. Then everyone got to know the basics of journalism. What do we need for an article? What to keep in mind when making

an interview? What is the difference between a report and an interview? How to prepare ourselves for a discussion? Following the preparation and the definition of the subjects we went out to the street of Săcueni in small groups, and despite the fact that it was a Sunday afternoon we met lots of people whom we could ask about the social problems in which the group was interested. The topic of unemployment, Roma question and the minority questions were all addressed. It was a whole round day and we wish many similar ones for ourselves!

the Hungarian Team



Who Said Monday is Awful?

Monday was a great day! The participants woke up at 7 o'clock as usual, with smiles on their faces. The day started with delicious breakfast and with games which were really funny.

During the workshops the girls and boys learnt how to use a camcorder, starting from how to turn it on, through how to focus, till how to make footages. The afternoon was spent walking in the city of Săcueni and making interviews with local people about the social situation of the city and the people. One of the groups visited even the children's home that was a really touching experience. Then the rain surprised those who were on the street but it did not ruin their day at all. After the rain, the return to the accommodation and the typing of the interviews the participants had a great night, the Hungarian night. Everybody had the chance to taste national drink and food, then a short song and the inherent choreography. The dance was very funny, and then the folkdance also exhausting.

The mere conclusion is that each person learned something new and had lot of fun. That's why Monday was perfect just as the previous day, and let's hope the following days will be just better.

Michaela Ďuračková



Stirring Tuesday

After waking up and drinking the necessary quantity of coffee the youth gathered in the room on Tuesday morning. While everybody was still crooning the "Nád a házam teteje" song ("The roof of my house is made of reed") learnt on the Hungarian night previously the organizers planned to have group discussions in the forenoon. The participants teamed up to analyze the topic of black work, jobs that don't require qualification and the emigration for work. Each group looked up a space in the building where they preferred to work and the notes were done in half an hour. Advantages, disadvantages, proposals for solution were presented, discussed. After lunch the interviewing

teams formed earlier went out to the territory of Săcueni to make more footages for the documentary to-be-ready. This work ended before supper that was followed by a break for relaxation, rest. But there came the time when everybody got excited because of the Slovak night in which we did not balk. We delighted in the presented landscapes, we tasted the national food, then we got sweated during the dance teaching session.

the Romanian Team



Advertisement, Roundoff, Editing and Intercultural Night



The Slovak cultural night indulged not only our tummies but we could gain new knowledge about the country and could also expand our common dictionary with new words. After a night rich in dance and tastes the groups could hardly begin to start the edition works of the documentary movie next morning. There were some exercises helping the attunement and then the film crews from Monday teamed up again. They made it clear what's the rest to do, who undertakes what, what kind of footages are needed yet, what should contain the promotion of the screening?

Social discrimination, Roma integration, poverty and the question of the lacking infrastructure - these all appear in the short films of the crews. The question was: how can the editing teams work simultaneously in such a way that the three separate films can form one rounded whole? For the editing-cutting teams this meant serious collaboration training.

Meanwhile, other members of the group worked on the

promotion of the film screening. It was so good to draw again by hand while – like in a normal spinner – singing and sharing different stories. The hand-drawn posters and flyers were completed, as well as the online promotions.

In the evening music, dance and the cognition of each other's culture were in focus again, this time a bit alternatively due to a sudden power outage. Under the starlit sky the group of Săcueni cuittled to the others with melon and other national tidbits.

the Hungarian Team



Inviting, Watching, Hugging

In the forenoon of the last day a group of the youth participants went to the city after breakfast to distribute the handmade flyers and posters in Săcueni. They invited the people of the street to the afternoon screening, then the time of premiere came. The three documentaries was finished, to which the screenplay, the footages and the editorial work was done by the mixed groups of the participants from the three countries. After the premiere there was a short

conversation with the public about the presented topics. When the spectators left the place of the premiere the participants and the leaders of the groups shared their comments, also the mayor took the occasion to say thanks for the documentary films and to offer the city's help in need for the future to the youth, the represented organizations. After a big hug the organizers handed over the YouthPasses.

There was nothing left but packing up and the farewell.

the Romanian Team



Locals' Biggest Issues

One of the Erasmus+ groups got a dictaphone, walked around the city of Săcueni, and asked some people about the local social situation. The first brave person was a young man, 26 years old, he told us his opinion.

– What do you think about the social situation of Săcueni?

– I think there are many Roma people and they are friendly. I have many Roma friends too! They are nice and there are no problems with them, but they are being used by the government. There is a group that needs help, but they don't get any kind of real help.

– What kind of problems do they have?

– They are very poor, because they don't have jobs.

– In your opinion how unemployment could be solved here?

– I think we need more work-places, because the recent work-places are occupied, and some of them are taken by corruption. After this we met another person, who is teaching in primary school, and she pointed out the biggest social problem in the city, according to her.

– Do you think there are any social problems in Săcueni?

– There are a lot of social problems in Săcueni, but the biggest one I think is with the gypsies. I'm a teacher, here in Săcueni, and it's very hard to teach them. It's very hard to communicate with them. I think this is the biggest problem here.

– Do you think the government could solve the problem?

– Yes, a different school system would be better for them

– Just for them, separated?

– Yes.

– If they are taught separately, it will be possible to integrate

them or it will generate even more conflicts?

– No, first of all, I think they should be taught separately, and after that you can integrate them.

– Don't they want to learn or why are they such a big problem?

– It's a cultural problem I think, how they live at home, the situation that they are really poor. This is the biggest problem, and also alcoholism.

– Do you think anybody care about them?

– Not really, they only use them when they need.

– Do you think is just their blame or do the politicians have any part in it?

– I think we have to change the political and educational system first, and after that we can do a change in Săcueni.

the 4th Group

Săcueni in Hungary?

Within the Erasmus+ youth exchange, four groups have interviewed inhabitants of Săcueni in order to find out the opinions about Hungarian-Romanian relations and satisfaction by living in Romania. One group named Klaudia's Team asked nine citizens and made summary about their point of view on the mentioned issue.

1. Do you think there is a difference between salaries in Hungary and Romania? Everybody says that in Hungary the salary is higher, that is the reason why many people leave the country, Romania too. The reason why the salary is lower in Romania is because there exists a big lack of professional experience on the job market. Many people leave the country because the need of a better standard of living - including a better workplace and job opportunities.

2. Do you think that Hungarian people discriminate the Romanians in Săcueni? Despite of old ages there is no big opposition amongst Romanians

and Hungarians, but in other countries it does exist. In the past there were living much more Hungarians than Romanians in Transylvania but now the situation is changed, that's the reason of 'fight'. For example three Hungarian counties try to achieve the autonomy.

3. If Săcueni had been a part of Hungary would life be better? Yes, every asked person from the city would like Săcueni to be part of Hungary, mostly because of the better economical situation, and more developed system.

The double citizenship can be a solution for this regarding the Hungarian nationality in Săcueni and also in Transylvania. Unfortunately, we have to admit that some people have prejudices about the Hungarians living in Romania. We are living in a modern society where everybody should accept all nationalities and not make differences because of habitation.

Péter Pápista, Róbert Lakatos, Béci Lakatos, Lukáš Hrošovský, Klaudia Habová, Barbara Cheregi

Where is the Work in Săcueni?

The participants of the youth exchange **European Social Overview through My Lens** got the task to make interviews with the locals of Săcueni about different social issues on the second day of the program. The group decided to focus on the local employment possibilities. They asked the people on the street and in the local pub what kind of job opportunities are there in the town or around?

Marika: "There is nothing here. Maybe in Oradea or in Episcopia Bihor where the Italians have their shoe- and furniture factories. I am a sick pensioner and my daughter takes care of me, so I do not know too much about the job market here."

Zoltán: "I live and work in Budapest. I just came home to visit my mother. I work for a company doing cleaning and gardening. I left Săcueni because of the money and my family was already living in Hungary. It was 20 years ago."

Magda: "I moved back from the USA 2 years ago. I was a chef there. It was hard to get a job here as I am 67 years old. Now I am an employee in the pub that is together with the grocery store. I got this job as I knew someone who recommended

me to the owner. I am lucky as most people go to Oradea every day, traveling 40 kms for a job. It is expensive to rent an apartment there and because of the family most people commute."

Gábor: "My son is working in Slovakia, he is preparing TVs. He enjoys it very much. It is great that he has a job that is paying him well. Earlier he was coming with me to work in Oradea every day. I wake up at 4 am and return from work at 5 pm just to have a job. I have been doing it for 6 years. I buy the monthly ticket for the train but many people are just barbing the conductor and they travel juts for 1-2 Romanian Leis. Corruption is high in this country but what should we expect when our politicians in the parliament are corrupt too. Earlier I worked in the furniture factory, but that closed and 800 people were fired."

János: "It is a shame that my granddaughter with 4 diplomas had to move to Germany. It hurts a lot. She is working in a dog-food factory. I do not like this dirty country. What are they doing there up in the parliament? We expected a lot from Johanniss, but it is even worse than Ponta. Even our mayor, Csaba Béres went to Kuwait from our money. He did not even care of us. I love everyone but someone should love me too."

*Romana Valková, Dániel Barabás,
František Kekely, Andrea Keresztési*

Even Those are Poor Who Work Hard

On a sleepy Sunday afternoon an interviewing group of the **European Social Overview through My Lens** project went to the local Pub called **Lali bar** to ask the people there about poverty and the situation of Roma population in Săcueni.

– The real money is in the UK – says the barman, around his 30's.

– That's the average salary, approximately 200 euro – adds his friend.

A little girl maybe four years old, laughs as her mother takes her into her arms.

– Everybody is poor here, except those who employ! There are only a few landlords, but this is very less for the city.

Of course the concept of poor means something different for everybody. An example:

"You bicycle? You're poor! Your car is old? You're poor! Even if probably there is more money in your pocket than in others'. Poorness, wantless attitude is different for everybody because they can't or they don't want to follow the norms. The poor Hungarian chares, the Roma gets the financial aid. The Hungarian s proud, the Roma is not. Probably they are the survivors, why wouldn't they use up the system? Bucharest wants anyway to show the Roma as poor. Here is indifferent anyway, we are used to it." This is how people in Săcueni think about the topic. Who doesn't like it can move away!

Kristóf Nagy, Ákos Madarász, Ákos Pintér, Kristóf Tulipán, Mária Hrklová, Michaela Ďuračková

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Asociația Erhangja Egyesület

417435 Săcueni str. Libertății nr. 22/C, ap. 3 județul Bihor, ROMÂNIA

tel.: +40-762-830344

e-mail: erhangja1@gmail.com

www.erhangja.ro