

Impresii participanți la curs

- Tous les participants ont été très satisfaits de l'organisation de ce stage sur tous les plans.

Michel Harel

- Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to thank you all of you for the wonderful week spent together.

I was thinking along the lines what European citizenship is like and its elusive nature compared and contrasted to the national citizenship. What came to my mind was a particular 'revelation' from Neale Donald Walsch's book 'Conversations with God'. In the book the man asks God: 'God, where are you?'. And the answer goes like this: 'You remember what you have been taught about me: NOWHERE. But if you look at it from another point and split the word, it turns out to be NOW (and) HERE.'

So if you allow me that allusion, we have been practicing European Citizenship all the previous week in that sense: we have been fully engaged and working on it, we have been living it.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to be a part of this unforgettable experience.

Best wishes,

Svoboda

- Dear all,

I would like to thank you for all I have learned during this week, not only during the sessions, but also from our informal exchanges. And of course, I am particularly grateful to the organisation team and our Constanta colleagues for the warm welcome we have received from them.

You will find [here](#) a cooperative link to even more pictures! Unfortunately, I couldn't upload them to Joel's file. Here I managed to change the settings, so that you can have your own to the cloud, if you like.

Let's keep in touch!

Fanny

- Dear European friends,

I would like to add my contribution to all your wonderful words. I have learned a lot during this week. And I am particularly grateful to the organisation team and our Constanta colleagues for all the hard work.

Although I like the idea of organizing a simultaneous activity about AEC every month, I think it is a bit hard to do that in my history classes. That doesn't mean that I will forget about AEC. I have plans to keep in touch with Fanny to see if we can combine our knowledge. And I wanna put Andreea in touch with my colleagues who train pupils in debating. The most important thing for me is: getting to know you and your thoughts about Europe made me feel more European. And I'm determined to act as an active European citizen, as a teacher and in my personal life.

Kind regards,

Paula

- Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Hungarian colleagues I would like to thank again for the exceptionally rich and innovative 6 days. Svoboda is right - "we were living it together" and we should be aware of Citizenship NOW and HERE. THANK YOU, see you very soon,

All the best Everyone,

Eva

- Merci à Lucretia et Vasile pour tout le travail accompli et pour leur bonne humeur, et merci à vous tous pour ces riches heures.

Voici la dernière mise à jour du [lien](#) vers les photos (avec les dernières, celles de Bucarest).

Amitiés

Joël Mathieu

- Dear Friends & Colleagues

I'm very pleased and grateful for all the Active EU Organisers and Participants of the Elicit plus courses and meetings. I can't tell you how happy I am to have had the opportunity to take part in the programmes organised in Paris, Sofia and Constantza. Hoping to see you again soon. Wishing you all the best

Vidáné Moroz Szimóna

- Dear friends,

Thank you for being in Constanta! I am glad that you enjoyed your stay here and our town as well.

I feel it was a constructive week and we started to act like European citizens indeed.

Why don't we continue the NOW and HERE? Two activities come to my mind:

- can't we organize a simultaneous activity as European citizens every month? We have so many ideas gathered at the workshop on the method 635 coordinated by Mrs Sirinian Lucretia. Sometimes the change come from us, without any laws or regulations...

- we have at least one magazine in our schools: maybe we can dedicate one page of it to being an Active European Citizen...

All the best,

Andaluzia

- Hi all,

A little bit later than the rest, I just got home after a wonderful week and extra day in Bucharest. I would like to use this e-mail to thank you all again for this learning experience, it has been a pleasure meeting you all. I believe we didn't say goodbye but see you...

Hope everything is going well and we can use our internatiol friendship in the furtere! Please let me know when you are in Holland, I would be happy to show you around and perhaps show a Dutch school.

Vriendelijke groet,

Maike Steenberg

- Bonjour et merci beaucoup à tous.

Pour moi a été une semaine très riche a tous les niveaux. Surtout au niveau personnel.

Un bon printemps pour notre Europe.

Antonia Mayen

- I'm writing to thank you for such a wonderful and constructive week. It was a real pleasure to work with you. I arrived home safely... after 12 hours by train. ☐I hope to keep in touch and collaborate in future projects. Furthermore I want to thank Mrs.Lucretia S. and Mr. Vasile N. for exemplary organization of this training of trainers.

Best wishes to all,

Andreea

- *Professeure d'Histoire, de Géographie et d'Education morale et civique en France, Fanny Dubray est également Secrétaire de la section française de l'association européenne de l'éducation (AEDE-France). Cette organisation a pour mission de renforcer la connaissance de l'Union européenne chez les professionnels de l'Education. Avec le soutien du programme Erasmus +, l'AEDE-France a monté le projet ELICIT PLUS, dont l'association constanzaine Alumni est partenaire. Lors d'une formation organisée à Constanța (Roumanie) dans le cadre de ce projet, le Proviseur Vasile Nicoară, également Président de l'association Alumni, a autorisé une vingtaine d'enseignants européens à visiter l'établissement dont il a la charge.*

Engagée depuis plusieurs années dans des échanges européens, j'ai eu la chance de visiter de nombreux établissements scolaires en France, en Allemagne, en Belgique, en Finlande, et en Ukraine. Ces expériences ont été des plus enrichissantes sur le plan humain et intellectuel. Pourtant, j'ai rarement été accueillie avec autant de chaleur et d'élégance qu'au Lycée Mircea de Constanța, dirigé par le Professeur Vasile Nicoară. Dès l'arrivée de notre groupe, alors que nous franchissions la porte d'un monument chargé d'histoire, une dizaine d'étudiants nous attendait. Formant une haie d'honneur en costume traditionnel, ces jeunes gens nous ont invité à déguster une bouchée de pain salée, en signe d'hospitalité.

La première étape de notre visite fut littéraire. La bibliothèque me sembla assez petite, mais ses murs étaient entièrement recouverts de livres, étroitement alignés sur des étagères si hautes que seules des échelles devaient permettre d'y accéder. Parmi les portraits de grands auteurs qui nous surplombaient, je crus reconnaître celui d'Eminescu, ce poète roumain de renommée internationale. Impressionnée par la taille du rayon de langue française, je fus amusée d'y trouver deux ouvrages de la collection « Pour les nuls », assez peu présente dans les centres de documentation français, en dépit de son intérêt pédagogique. Alors que nous cheminions vers le gymnase, la professeure de français du lycée, Florentina Gheorghe, attira notre attention sur le panneau où étaient affichés les nombreux prix reçus par ses élèves aux « Olympiades du français ».

Nous n'étions pas au bout de nos surprises lorsque, pénétrant dans un gymnase parfaitement semblable à ce qu'aurait pu être l'équivalent français, nous découvrîmes un nouveau groupe d'élèves en costume traditionnel. Vêtue d'un tutu blanc et chaussée de pointes, une élève interpréta avec grâce un extrait du « Lac des Cygnes » de Tchaïkovski, avant de céder la place à ses camarades, qui effectuèrent plusieurs danses folkloriques auxquelles nous nous mêlâmes joyeusement.

Ma visite s'acheva sur une note plus scientifique, dans un lieu que Monsieur Nicoară nous présenta comme la *smart room* ou « salle connectée ». Le premier projet que les élèves nous présentèrent alors, et qui envisageait la création d'une base spatiale sur Mars, avait été récompensé par la NASA elle-même pour son caractère innovant. Je ne fus pas tant impressionnée par l'ambition extrême de ce projet, que par la manière dont sa mise en œuvre avait été réfléchie et approfondie. Les élèves étaient allés jusqu'à inventer un nouveau type de matériau propre à filtrer les rayonnements ultraviolets, et à tester en laboratoire de biologie le mécanisme de terraformation qu'ils envisageaient de mettre en place sur la base spatiale. Plus ludique, le second projet était conduit par la classe de robotique, et témoignait d'un esprit d'équipe particulièrement constructif.

Au final, la visite du Lycée Mircea de Constanța me laisse le souvenir d'élèves et d'enseignants particulièrement impliqués dans une réussite collective, dans un esprit qui m'a cependant paru très concurrentiel. J'ai ainsi pu mesurer la distance entre nos systèmes scolaires respectifs. Alors que les élèves français suivent sept à dix heures de cours par jour, cinq jours et demi par semaines, les élèves roumains sont libérés chaque jour dès quatorze heures. Alors que les élèves français rentrent chez eux à dix-huit ou dix-neuf heures le soir après être restés assis toute la journée, et souvent trop énervés pour apprendre leurs leçons, les élèves roumains ont la possibilité de travailler librement dans les locaux du lycée l'après-

midi, et de s'investir dans des projets collectifs. Aussi le système roumain me semble-t-il plus à même de prendre en compte les choix des élèves, de leur offrir des solutions adaptées à leurs besoins et de favoriser un apprentissage actif. Mais une seconde différence de taille m'est aussi apparue lors de cette visite. Alors qu'en France les élèves sont inscrits jusqu'à dix-huit ans au lycée le plus proche de leur domicile, les élèves roumains sont répartis, dès l'âge de onze ans, en fonction de leurs résultats à un examen national. Le fait que le Lycée que j'ai eu la chance de visiter soit classé au quatrième rang des établissements roumains m'a ainsi amené à nuancer ce que j'y ai découvert. Sans doute serait-il nécessaire, afin de mieux comprendre le système dans lequel il s'insère, de comparer les réalisations du Lycée Mircea cel Batran de Constanța avec celles d'établissements qui ne l'égalent ni en moyens, ni en excellence.

Fanny Dubray

Professeure d'histoire-géographie

- SEEING HOW THE FUTURE IS BEING BROUGHT IN THE PRESENT DAY

On the doorstep of 'Mircea cel Batran' High School

We, the participants, in the ELICIT-PLUS C1 Programme European Awareness and Committed Citizenship, have had the pleasure to visit a school in the Romanian town of Constanta. A high school of great excellence which proudly bears the name of Mircea Cel Batran, but has also been recognized as a European School by the Romanian Ministry of Education for its achievements in the field of European projects and international cooperation.

We had the opportunity to make a tour on the premises and meet some of the glorious students and their not less talented teachers.

We were welcomed in the main entrance by students in national costumes, who offered us to have a piece of home-made round bread and dip it in salt in a symbolic gesture of hospitality: to make us feel at home.

We visited the library with the impressive array of portraits of Romanian authors, lining the walls as though they were on a constant watch over the new generation.

We passed by walls of fame, covered from top to bottom with certificates and diplomas of best students who had won prizes in prestigious international competitions in sciences.

We watched enchanted how a beautiful girl, a student, danced for us in the gym, bringing to life the legend of the love-stricken swan princess. Then we were immersed in the magic of the school folk ensemble, who managed to make us join them in their vigorous dance.

Our genuine interest was provoked by the 'NASA boy' Razvan, whose marvelous presentation on the Oberth school team project about a future mission to Mars, with all the scientific solutions to potential technical problems, left us gaping in admiration. We were further fascinated by the Robotic club and the Tomis team who demonstrated for us a model of robot performing different operations and tasks – a simulation for a future participation in an international robot competition.

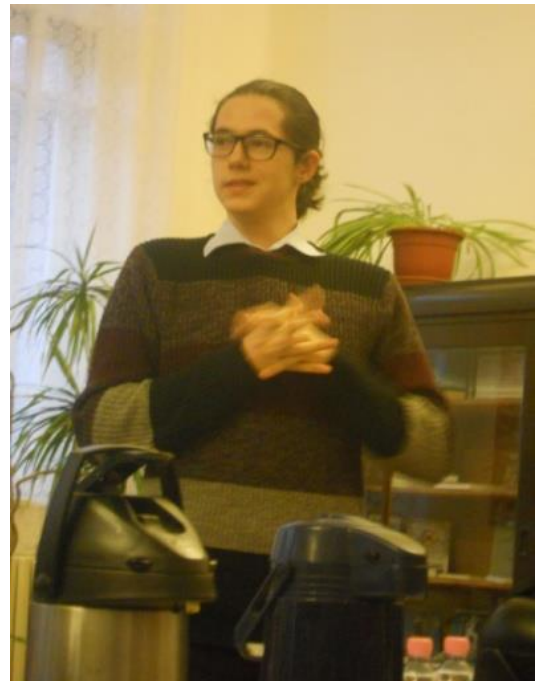
Our tour included a visit to the office of the school psychological counselor, followed by a collegial talk about the present day problems we all, as teachers, are facing at school and the approaches that are being taken.

We ended our visit in the teachers' room where we were given a concise, but highly informative presentation on the history of the school by Bianka Matei, a teacher of English who is among the assets of the school's brilliant teaching staff, with her unwavering dedication to both formal and non-formal education. The cherry on the cake was another unforgettable performance by a couple of students who performed for us modern music: a girl with a breathtakingly deep voice accompanied by a male guitarist, both of whom happen to be activists for the local Rotary Club Youth section, its vice president and secretary respectively.

Every and each of us, the invitees to the school, were moved, and shaken, and amazed by what were able to see, feel and generally perceive on such short a visit of the obvious accomplishments of both students and staff. What personally struck me most were two things: the modesty, sincerity and dedication to everything students and teachers were doing together, their mutual respect and their long-term commitment to learning on the one hand, while on the other – the genuine enjoyment of learning through experimenting and getting engaged in all kinds of activities, which is per se the key to bringing up a well-rounded person.

And one last, finishing touch, more in the realm of what we were discussing in our programme on Active European Citizenship in the week 20-25th February in Constanta, Romania. During the visit to the school

we were able to see many young people engaged in various projects happening in the present day but aiming at the future. One such example, which I find to be a precedent, is the student Victor Ignat who we met and whose story is really fascinating. Born to a Bulgarian mother and a Romanian father, he and his brother, conjuring three languages of communication – Bulgarian, Romanian and the family’s lingua franca – English, study simultaneously in two European countries – Romania and Bulgaria, managing to cover and successfully finish their courses of study in the same year. This was made possible through an arrangement between the principals of the two schools - the featured here ‘Mircea cel Batran’ in Constantza and a secondary school with a profile in languages in Dobrich, Bulgaria. Moreover, his cousin on his mother’s side, similarly shares her studies between Bulgaria and France, recognized in the same way by the principals of the respective schools. Who knows: that might be the general case in the future when Europeans would naturally find their way around, fluently speaking several languages, liaising cultures and national communities to give birth to a ‘natural’ and not ‘artificially constructed’ European citizen.



Victor Ignat, a student at ‘Mircea cel Bartran’, Romania, and a high school in Dobrich, Bulgaria

Written by Svoboda Gagarova, a participant in the training programme of ELICIT-PLUS C1, European Awareness and Committed Citizenship, held in Constantza 20-26.02.2017, a teacher of English in 12th High School ‘Tsar Ivan Assen II’, Sofia, Bulgaria, and a member of AEDE- Bulgarian section