



IBRAVE

the way to brand

STUDENTS' VIEWS

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CROATIA

BUZĂU MEETING - WHAT WE GOT?

The fifth meeting of IBRAVE partners in Buzău showed the main objective of the entire project, to influence young peoples' attitude towards developing tourism in rural areas and look for their places as entrepreneurs in that sector instead of striving towards the big cities as the only solutions for gaining success (or the only solution to gain success).

Students from two vocational schools Colegiul economic Buzău, Romania and Ekonomska škola braća Radić Đakovo, Croatia presented their work and role in the project. During these two years they investigated their regions trying to find the most interesting but not popular places which deserve to be visited. They admitted that some of these locations were not familiar to them and they became aware of the vast potential waiting to be exploited. They also became aware of the importance of being different and recognisable, the importance of the brand. They learned about the importance of research, looking for solutions, team work and cooperation.

As a teacher, I realised that participating in the project was a great kick off for their future careers, their viewpoints changed forever. After having such experience, they will never be able to go back and look at the world around them in the way they used to.

Personally, I can say that during this stay in Buzău I was coping with mixed feelings of pride, happiness and sorrow. I was proud of these young people and because we did a great job, happy because I was with my friends in a beautiful environment, but sad because we came to the end and a future cooperation with all these wonderful people is uncertain. Years may pass before some of us meet again, maybe never...

CROATIA

THANK GOD WE HAVE INTERNET

IVANA KNEZOVIĆ 4.E1

IMPRESSIONS OF ROMANIA

What to say about Romania? Romania is a very big and beautiful country. We learned a lot about their way of living. It's similar to Croatia before 1990. I wasn't even born then but I've heard a lot about those days and Croatian history. Buzău is a town much bigger than mine, Đakovo. When I saw some parts of the town I had a feeling like it was my home. People are very nice and kind. Everyone wanted to know something about Croatians and our country, it seemed as if we were the centre of attention. I thought that we are not interesting to anyone but now I know that I was wrong.

We learned a lot in Romania, especially how to communicate in a foreign language, in our case it was English. Also I think that we made a good impression of our town and I hope that our friends from Romania will visit us some day. If they don't, they will miss a good opportunity to see and learn something more about Đakovo.

I had a great time with my host and her family, they treated me like I was their child which is actually pretty good, I felt like I was at home. I met a lot of interesting people and I couldn't even imagine that some people that live so far from my home would be that kind to me. I found true friends there and I hope that I will see them again sometime.

We didn't have enough time for anything more, but those two days were ones of the best days of my life. I was very tired, but they gave me some positive power and because of that I had a lot of fun.

The bad thing of this trip is that it was too short, but we promised that we will repeat it some day in the future. Till then I will watch pictures that I took and laugh because they will remind me of the great time I had in Romania.

Thank God that we have internet and social networks so we can talk to each other whenever and in the way we want. Once someone said: "Cyber hugs are almost as good as real hugs."

VISIT TO COLEGIUL ECONOMIC BUZĂU

At first sight I thought that I would get lost in their school because it was too times bigger than my school or even more. I was like woow, it's so impressive and then students told me that I wouldn't like it any more when I came inside. But that didn't happen, when I stepped inside, I was even more impressed because the students were so friendly and the teachers also. We attended an English class with our hosts, every student from Croatia had a task to present something Croatian and Romanian students had the same task for their country so that everybody could see the differences between Romania and Croatia.

Their English teacher was so nice to us and now I know why they are so good in English. I was really proud at the end of class when she told us that we spoke very well. It was one more step for us, every day we are better than yesterday.



PARTICIPATING IN PROJECTS – STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

First I have to say that there are a lot of strengths and not that many weaknesses. Projects like Erasmus+ are great because students are able to visit and learn about other cultures. It is the best way to improve English and I believe that it will help us in future. When you participate in projects like that, you have to communicate with people in a foreign language and that is a good thing because a lot of students are nervous about that and also they are not confident. But for me the most important thing is that we are able to meet a lot of young people with different styles of living. I have made a lot of friends in many different projects.

I can't find that many weaknesses but the biggest one is that there is always a limited number of students that can participate and there's no space for everyone. And the other one is that projects are too short.

PREPARATIONS FOR IBRAVE

Last year we had a lot of presentations about this project. And also we learned a lot of things that we didn't know about rural areas in Croatia. I found them very interesting and I hope that rural areas will keep improving in the future. Before our trip to Romania students and teachers from my school were making souvenirs of our town. We did something special and I believe that some entrepreneurs will use our ideas for souvenirs or even have a look at our Local action plan. During this project I learned a lot of good and very important things.

IVANA KNEZOVIĆ 4.E1

CROATIA

I LEARNED MORE IN THESE THREE DAYS THAN IN THREE MONTHS SITTING IN A CLASSROOM

LUKA PEŠUT

During our quite long journey which lasted some fifteen hours, we could see a lot of interesting places, and the company was pretty good, so it didn't seem so exhausting. Once we arrived to Romania we could see not only life and culture of Romania, but also the town of Buzău, learn about their history by watching the buildings and houses. Their churches speak a lot, and you can notice the difference between rich and poor people. Although the roads do not differ too much from Croatian, the traffic and drivers' behaviour seem to be quite different.

VISIT TO SCHOOL IN BUZĂU

We met people with different religions, some of them could understand English, some of them not. Yet we could communicate and make friends. After being split into groups, we worked in teams and I could hear about famous things in Romania, what they do in their free time and so on. We didn't spend much time in school, but we got tasks to do while sightseeing. We saw many things that Buzău offers to their visitors. We also visited restaurants where Romanian students usually go and tasted their fast food, the things young people do nowadays.

PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT

The greatest advantage of this project is that it prepared us for life, and I can say that in those three days of this meeting, I learned much more than in three months sitting in a classroom and doing theory. Participating in this project gave me a great kick off in school knowledge, deciding about my future career, getting a job and in life in general. I not only improved my English in these projects, but I also learned how to communicate with people from other countries, meet new friends, how to deal with business meetings, we learned a lot about management, branding and for my personal development I learned about other cultures.

Apart from all that I a big advantages is visiting other countries and

cities, sightseeing cities, villages and landscapes. The project also helped us to make new friends among foreign students.

The only disadvantage of participating in the project is that when we are away from school many teachers demand to make up the missed lessons very quickly and sometimes we have to do tests immediately when we return..

IBRAVE WORKSHOPS AND PREPARATIONS FOR ROMANIA

The workshops which were organised last year were excellent because we could learn a lot from people who are directly involved in the tourist industry. We also learned a lot during the students' visit within another project, we learned how to develop teamwork, use the English language to communicate and make friends with some students we met now in Romania. I hope that our school will continue organising such workshops on international, but on the school level as well.



CROATIA

THE TRIP THAT YOU JUST CAN'T TAKE OUT OF YOUR HEAD

MONIKA BOGDANOVIĆ 4.e1

Do you know that feeling that you just can't take out of your head? This is that one trip.

*Every impression of this trip was just positive, from the ride there, staying there and the trip back home. On the way to Buzău I could see a lot of different things, different places, houses, ways how people work, people who still use their horses in the field, etc. All of those things are a bit unusual for us, but that is just the way people live their lives in Buzău.

Romanian students hosted us and I could not get a better person to stay with.

I felt like I was at home. Her parents welcomed me with a smile and they gave me all I needed. A big thank to them and for everything they gave me.

We went sightseeing and I saw a lot of different architecture and traditions.

After a busy day, there was of course time to hang out and enjoy with our friends. They took us to

one place that I've never seen before. You can go there, have a drink, just hang out, or you can also go there to dance, but not as we are used to doing, its like dancing salsa so you have to have skills for it.

And people there, you can find some friendly ones and those less friendly, like everywhere else. At some point of walking through the town my friends and I spoke in Croatian, so some people were very suprised to hear that kind of language in their place.

*One day we had to visit their school and participate in some lessons. My group had to compare Croatian and Romanian singers, actors etc., so that was pretty fun.

I was afraid that other students wouldn't accept us, but I was totally wrong. They were very friendly, they wanted to take pictures with us to keep some memory of us, then they wanted to learn some Croatian words so we taught them. There were many things more that would remain in very nice memories.

Classrooms are little bit different from ours, but not much. There was one specially interesting thing for me, and something that I always wanted, the school uniforms, and I think it is great. The teachers are very polite and they said hello to us with a very big and honest smile on their faces.



BENEFITS AND DISADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATING IN PROJECTS.

For benefits I can say a lot of things like: you develop your language skills that will of course be usefull in the future, you learn and see a lot of different traditions and ways of living, so you can compare your surroundings with theirs and see the differences, you make a lot of new friends or maybe something more than that and in the end you just have fun.

For disadvantages I can't say much, there is only one sad thing, not all students have the language skills so they don't have the opportunity to travel and experience all of this stuff. There is one more thing, you make a lot of friends, but you know that there are low possibilities to see them again. It's a pity the project can't last longer.

*At the end I will say something about preparing for Romania.

For Romania we prepared a lot of interesting things that we gave to our friends and teachers so they can see that we thought about them and that we appreciate them. We made soaps and wrapped them in little boxes that are handmade, one of our student's mother made magnets with pictures of our town and our traditions, we also gave them little chocolates and cookies,etc. We wouldn't have succeed this without the help of other students, our parents, teachers and other good people so thanks everybody.

MONIKA BOGDANOVIĆ 4.e1



CROATIA

MEETING IN BUZĂU

PETAR BILANDŽIĆ 4E1

My impressions about the trip to Romania, are pretty humble - very enthusiastic and glad that I had the chance to be part of the short trip. It was interesting and new for me, because I have experienced a different culture, different traditions and a way of life.

Economic School Buzău has a different schedule than we do. We had a chance to attend one class; it was an English class. Pupils seemed friendly, the teacher didn't seem very strict, and she was helpful. School itself isn't special except for one thing, they have to wear a school uniforms which isn't a thing here in Đakovo.

Advantages from working in projects are; learning something new, studying about something that you might have heard of but never researched and last but not least getting better in a foreign language which helps in meeting new people.

Bad thing about these projects might be the fact that we probably will not have the chance to meet up or hang out with people that we met during the project.

We had few presentations to prepare for this project, plus certain promotional materials had to be made too which made the project interesting and fun.



ROMANIA

DEVELOPING NEW COMPETENCIES WITH IBRAVE

MIHALACHE MARIA GABRIELA

During these activities, students proved that they can be independent, but also that they can work in a team; at the same time developing creative skills.

The IBRAVE project gave many students from our school the chance to develop skills that will be very useful in their professional life in the future. During the project we learned, and discovered at the same time how it is to work as teams, to cooperate, to create, in order to have valuable results built on original ideas given by us.

Every student had the chance to put their idea in practice for developing methods of promoting the areas that we have visited and at the same time, gain experience in international projects.

The results consist in all promotional material that we created, which is high quality: videos, Facebook pages, posters, calendars, interviews with local investors, and many more things.

These types of projects is not developed very often with so much devotion by its coordinators and the students have now a lot of good experiences and knowledge to share with others as they have been a part of it.

IMPRESSIONS WITH CROATIAN STUDENTS THROUGH IBRAVE

Spending time and exchanging ideas, values and thoughts with the students from Croatia was a privilege for us, as we received new information about European cultures. We shared a lot, the culture back in Croatia, about cultural differences, local problems and our educational systems making us change our perspective by seeing how life can be in other places.

During their stay the Croatian students came to our school where they sat in for English lessons and where they made new friends. This friendship has continued as they are still talking to each other through social networks.

We took them in the city to complete some tasks and at the same time to show them the beauty and the main interest points in Buzău. They enjoyed seeing the city and we were satisfied as we felt we were good hosts and we created new friendships.

As you adapt to a new culture, you become more creative and better in problem solving because often you can't rely on what

you have learned up to this point. You need to think outside of the box and travelling is a great tool in order to be good at this.

They visited many local tourist places and they enjoyed it very much, same as we did.

For us and for the Croatian students this project was a really great opportunity to understand the skills that you need to possess in order to promote an area in the right way and helped us in the process of our evolution.

Many students from school keep talking on social network with the Croatian students and have gained nice memories together as young Europeans.



ROMANIA

A GREAT EXPERIENCE

EDUARD CIUGULEA

My journey to the muddy vulcanoes was a great experience for me and my colleagues. It was on a Saturday morning when we arrived in Berca at the Muddy Vulcanoes. A sandy soil with a heavy breathing air was around us, but the landscape of the muddy mountains takes our attention.

After our visit, we went to the Muddy Vulcanoes Restaurant where we ate some traditional dishes.

This experience helped me to improve my creativity, my writing skills and my computer skills by having to produce advertising material as part of the IBRAVE project.

With IBRAVE help, we found a beautiful place to discover right in our city.



ROMANIA

FUN AND GOOD PRACTICE

LAUR ONOFREI

Making the video was fun and a good practice for my skills, which I really appreciate, since I will be needing this kind of work experience on future projects.



ROMANIA

MY IMPRESSION ABOUT IBRAVE PROJECT

MOCANU ANDREI

For me, IBRAVE project meant a lot.

Firstly, I gained experience that will help me with future projects. My English skills have improved. In this project we worked as teams and this has also improved my communication and teamwork skills.

I visited many beautiful places in the Buzău County and I met new, different and cool people.

The last project meeting took part in Romania, where we could host four Croatian students and personally I loved that because I had a great time. They were great and we showed them the city and our high school.

In conclusion, I learnt new things and these types of projects helped me to develop my personality.



ROMANIA

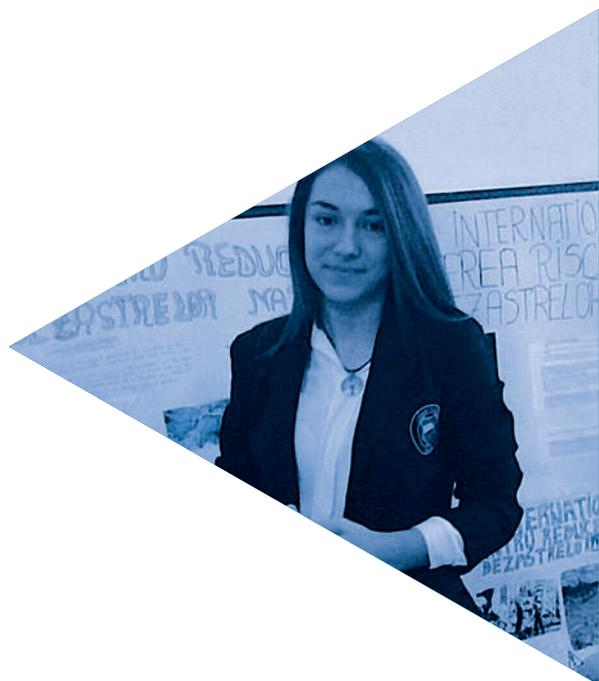
IBRAVE AND ME

CRISTINA BALABAN

This project meant a lot to me. I learned a lot of things. I practiced my English and this helped me a lot to have conversations with someone face to face in English. I'm happy that I had the chance to meet new people, who I hope to see again. I made new friends from another country and I learned a lot of new things about their culture. We had a really good time.

For me, it was a unique experience.

I hope will happen again I would love to take part in more projects like this one.



ROMANIA

SAW A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIFE

SONTICA LUMINITA

This autumn a girl from Croatia stayed with me for two days. I met this girl in March when I was in Croatia with the IBRAVE project. We went to different locations, visited the city together with other participants and other high school students. The experience we had in the 2 days was the only one.

I saw a different way of life from another person; we shared knowledge, ideas, traditions and customs. I saw what it means to see the same things from different perspectives, whether good or bad. It was a beautiful experience.



ROMANIA

IMPROVED MY ENGLISH

IOANA IGNAT

To host a Croatian student was an amazing experience because I had the opportunity to make new friends, to improve my English and also to learn things about another culture. I think this kind of friendships between people from different countries, are very important when you are a teenager because it helps you to build your personality. I will be part of, as many projects as I can and I think every single one of us should try this kind of project at least once in a lifetime.



ROMANIA

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS

BANU ALIN

In my opinion the IBrave project was one of the most important projects I've been part of this year. Because of this project I've discovered traditions and customs from Buzău that I didn't know about. I visited many places like the Living fire and the Gavanu Monastery. I am glad that I could participate.

Because I liked this project a lot I had the honour to attend the nationals at the contest 'Made for Europe' which took place at Satu Mare where I was awarded 3rd place. In the contest we had to present the project, exhibit the calendars and the posters that we had put together based on the trip we went on. I hope that I got your interest in these places and in the future you will go there to see it yourselves.



ROMANIA

MET WONDERFUL PEOPLE

POPESCU ELENA BIANCA

The project IBRAVE is one of the most beautiful projects of my school. I got involved because I found it very interesting. My class and I had to promote Hill Istrita of Buzău. When we visited Hill Istrita we interviewed entrepreneurs from the area.

Also I went further to a Tourism Fair at Romexpo, in Bucharest. I really liked this fair because I saw and learned new things, and met wonderful people.

