

CETAYA – Civic Engagement – The Art of Youth in Action

From 29th September to 8th October I took part of Youth Exchanges programm in Milcoveni in Rumania. That was my first project and I didn't know what to expect. The theme was civic engagement, specifically graffiti, forum theatre and flash mob. In the project participate 7 different countries : Italia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Rumania, Hungaria, Portugal and United Kingdom. From each country came six participant plus one team leader.

Youth Exchanges are supported by the European Union that means the participants don't need to pay any fees. Important is just to come, have a desire to learn new things and have a lot of fun. But isn't a holiday! We had a lots of different activities during the day. The morning started with breakfast and after we had outdoor activities for woke up a bit. All of these were directed at the confidence between people and work in groups. Work in group was very important. Normally we tried to put separately the people from the same country and this way give the opportunity to practice english and know better each other. The most important rule was bora bora. If somebody was speaking other language like english, you just told bora bora and the person started to speak english, so everyone could understand.



How I have told first, the principal theme of project was graffiti, forum theatre and flash mob. We divided us in working groups. When we finished our work we could change our group. I first joined graffiti and last day forum theatre. Our graffiti workshop took place in small park in village, where we painted walls with old pictures and tried to do it more agreeable. We chose a very popular design of minions, trees and flowers. Other graffiti we did directly on the camp. Everyone created your own design. The camp's walls became to be full of colours. Meantime other groups planted flowers, cleaned up the streets, painted signs and created sculptures. Everything with intention to do the village more agreeable. In this way we learned useful things about civic spirit, which we can use in our cities and villages. We prepared too the short theatre and flash mob performance and we did it on the street in Resica, trying to involve the inhabitants. At nights we sat all together around the fire, we sang, played the guitar and had a large conversation about all

sorts of thinks. Nine days in our small community passed very fast and we turned back to home tired, but happy and full of new experiences.



The project was very interesting, we did a lot of creative work, everyone had a opportunity to present own ideas. We improved our communication skills and learned about work in the group. But not just that. We met people from different cultures and we could see than they were not so different from us. We could participate all togheter without problems and learn one from the other. I recomendad at everyone to participate in simillar project. You can learn not just about other people, but about yourself too and understand that come out of your commfort zone can be very funny.

