

EMBRACE DIVERSITY IN MOLDOVA

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"Life and happiness begins at the end of your comfort zone" - that should sound like a cliché. Nevertheless, I've already flown so many times, but it was the second time to travel alone. My destination was from Vienna to Chisinau via Bucurest. The quote above came to my mind when I saw the plane with a propeller. That was definitely out of my comfort zone. Maybe it can be funny, but honestly this impulse awoke my fear. Of course I reached my destination. I started my journey with full of adrenaline.

The airport of Chisinau has been renovated, so instead of the discrete isolation everywhere was really noisy and dirty in the arrival zone. After I arrived at the airport, I realized that there were a lot of fake taxi drivers who were looking for unsuspecting tourists. In addition, I also realized that they didn't speak English language, so the communication would be hard. Our team was meeting in Chisinau at first time. I knew we were going to cooperate well from the first moment.

Basically the project was focusing on human rights, discrimination, cultural diversity and the LGBT communities. We were open-minded and would like to take part in implementing the results of the project. The whole weekend was ours to build a team.



This was my first Erasmus+ experience. I felt all the time that I was becoming more and more. I was able to make contacts with the others during the team-buildings.

Generally, the people were talkative and so open-minded to me. Due to this fact, I had a chance to gain knowledge and create discussions about the actual international topics. Actually, I am on International Relations Msc in Hungary, that's why I'm interesting in the discipline of international relations, geopolitics and territorial conflicts.



Before we started the research in this theme, one of our duties was to participate in so-called *"rapid-dates"* which means you have 7 minutes to change experiences and get to know representatives of other organizations. We had the chance to build potential partnerships. We represented ICRP as volunteers and we got a lot of positive feedbacks in connection with ICRP's vision and mission. The other interesting event was the intercultural evening. We could taste foreign national food and drinks. It was a gratifying surprise that the hungarian table was one of the most visited ones.

We started the research in Chisinau with deep and valuable conversations about our countries. The main topics included the fight against discrimination of minorities and respect of human rights. On that day was the Pride which is more moderated than in Western countries. The reason is simple: the society is more sensible in Moldova. We saw a group of aggressive orthodox counter-protesters raising their voice against the LGBT community. They recommended us to leave the area.



Everyone had their own team, which were drawn at random. Our idea was based on the discrimination to sexual orientation and general rejection and the consequent early school leaving in the hungarian and turkish education. We worked on a training program which would prepare headteachers to can integrate and help the students who are becoming a victim of bullying. Besides the discrimination, the lack of social recognition also contributes to their exclusions, increasing the risk of unequal opportunities in different fields of life. There were several organizations with

the vocation of integrating the LGBT communities in this project. I think their main objective could be the social inclusion of under-represented groups in society to promote managing more effectively their structural social inequalities. We can see that the countries are moving at a different speed even within the EU, but outside the EU as well.



However the management of Intercollege held a presentation to us about Erasmus+ and non-formal learning. After that we talked about the issues affecting the EU. The last day we summed up the event and listened to each other's critical and constructive comments. In addition, we had the opportunity to give an opinion or feedback about each other which we put into a small envelope. At the end of the day, I was so excited to read the notes I got. I felt amazing when I read the personal messages. They gave a positive and inspiring energy for me.

Again, I took a deep breath and got on the plane with propeller. I had no idea who the man sitting next to me was. At the end of the flight, suddenly we heard a bang, a distress signal-resembling sound. He saw how frightened I became and he began to talk kindly to me and assured me that – as he would often take this route – there was no reason to fear. When we said goodbye to each other he told me he was the minister of agriculture of Romania.



Finally with these experiences in my pocket I continued thinking about my new knowledge. I became able to see the connection points of the discrimination and human rights. Thank you very much for the whole Intercollege team for creating and organizing this event. A big thanks to Lilla who was available anytime and lead the CME very well. At last but not least, I would say thank you for ICRP for supporting and placing trust in the Hungarian team.

Mirjam Szakács