

## Specialization Traineeship 1

Suciu Ștefania Ioana

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 as part of my specialization traineeship, I had the opportunity to participate at an event organized by the centre Europe Direct Iasi, at the 'Colegiul National – Vasile Alecsandri'. The encounter in question was part of the edition 'Your Europe, your rights', edition in which the aim is to inform the younger generations about their rights in the European area, as well as the benefits that it presents. This event had a special guest Andreea Șerban promoter of the Model European Union Iasi. The model wants to bring closer the young generations to the decision-making process that is at the foundation of the European Union. It's significant, thereafter, to build a base which wants to form the students on one hand about the European institutions, the power that each institution holds and the corresponding influence that it has. The two classes of students that participated at the event had some ambassadors EPAS among the students. By EPAS we mean the European Parliament Ambassador Schools in Romania, the goal of the program is to raise more awareness about the European Union, the principles at the foundation of the parliamentary democracy and so on among the young individuals. This program is aimed at educating the students, by giving them new insights linked to the European citizenship and the rights that everyone has. The initiative proposes different teaching materials, that may eventually lead to appointing junior ambassadors to represent their schools when given the opportunity in various simulations of this kind. Among these activities we may find the commemoration of Europe Day in order to bring closer the students and those EU values.

During this event we, the staggers were in charge of illustrating the students the main points about the European institutions, at the same time present these values by using a less formal approach in order for the information to be as understandable as possible. Each one of us represented a specific branch, and then the students eventually had to discuss further what each institution was focused more on. It was interesting to see their level of participation, of course there were some students more implied than others and vice versa, at the same time it was quite surprising to see how many of them were quite familiar with the information shared. Apart from the EPAS students, their colleagues too seemed to be quite interested and engaged in the activity. The presentation that Andreea Șerban had was also quite intriguing, it started from a general perspective and then focused more on the themes that could have been more interesting and at heart for the students. It was more about their general perspective and the students' thoughts about European Union and then it eventually helped them to discover by themselves how important all these values are for each of us. It was a very curious approach, because it was not quite as academic as we may be used to. It attracted their attention and curiosity in an interactive and engaging way. The activity overall was interesting and refreshing. It's important to see how things have changed throughout the years, the growing interest towards what European Union really represents, and to see how important it is to be aware of our rights and responsibilities as European citizens.