

### Specialization Traineeship III

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In the context of the Specialization Traineeship that I did at the Europe Direct Centre Iași I had the opportunity to take part at other two interesting events. Both encounters were organized by the organization, the first one took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, while the second one on 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Both events were established considering an interesting period, which is called “the green week”. The aim of this program which takes place in schools is for the students to be taught more about the importance of good measures applied to everyday life as well as the protection of the environment. The first encounter took place at the Colegiul Național de Artă “Octav Băncilă” in Iași. The centre organized this encounter with another teacher, and it involved the students from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program for the encounter started by firstly mixing up the students from the two different classes. The aim was then to group them in teams of 3-4 students and involve them in different activities. They were told the purpose of the encounter as well as the objective of the whole “the green week” program. Then they were told to do some tasks, which called upon their creativity and willing to work in teams. They were assigned each team the assignment to decide the name, flag and motto of the group. Each kid had been given an activity that each of us can do, selected from the 52 steps for a more sustainable and green society. By the end the team had to assign the role of spokesperson to a participant from each team, to describe all the previously detailed tasks. The kids have had on this occasion the possibility to work in mixed groups, so they had to get out of their comfort zone, come up with ideas and then expose them in front of an audience. It had been an interesting experience to see how also the younger kids can learn more about the importance of such a program in an active and interactive way.

The second encounter which had been organized by the Europe direct Iasi Centre, occurred at the Liceul Teoretic ‘Miron Costin’ Iași. On this occasion the event had also two important guests from an interesting NGO called Artipic Association. The aim of the encounter was to talk about significant topics, such as the importance of art, especially street art for the citizens. The audience was formed by two classes from the school in question. The students had been taught about the importance of art as an instrument to fight fake news and disinformation. In this case the two guests talked about the importance to actively involve in the events and projects that they have, they talked about the importance these pieces of street art have on the surrounding community. The students were asked about some principles and European values, the importance of being aware of the surroundings and the events that help influencing and model positively the local community. The event went on talking about the link between art and democracy as well as the values that they believe characterize each European. The students were educated about the importance of participating in volunteering activities, and how these activities can help them to influence the society. When it comes to making art for the community it’s important to consider not only the areas in the centre but also the disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This means bringing art, values and curiosity into places where usually there is none. The students were then divided into two groups to write words that are suggested when thinking about the European cultural citizenship. Each group then presented two spokespersons to describe and present in detail each word, and the motifs behind it. I personally think that the experience has been one of a kind, the students learned more about the opportunities that volunteering gives as well as the impact that such an association has on the local community.