



YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2019





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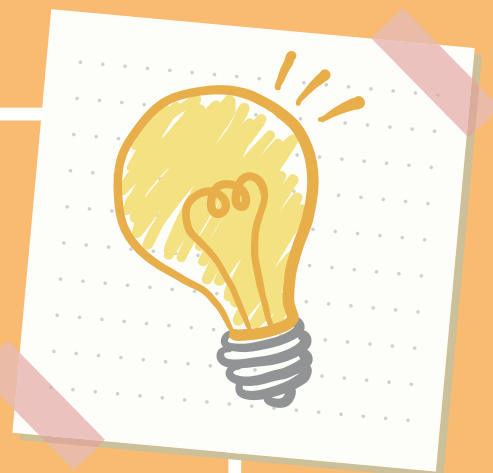
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Introduction

Through this new issue of our magazine, we wanted to challenge ourselves a bit and step outside our local community, in order to get to know more about what other young people from around the world are doing in promoting youth participation and active involvement in the community.

Therefore, when it was time to think about the content and the purpose of the magazine, we decided to promote good practice examples from around the world.

Even though it was not an easy process, we are more than happy to write about and to promote young people working to change the youth community in their region.

This issue would not be possible without our friends who were excited to share with us their work and ideas for developing their communities.

Many thanks to Maria, Nadia, Borja, and Fadi for joining the Youth for Democracy team.

Bianca Cristina Butacu
Youth for Democracy coordinator





Galeuropa

ENRICHING YOUNG SPANISH PEOPLE'S CAREER

"Galeuropa is supporting hundreds of young people from the Galicia region of northwest Spain to travel and learn, by matching them up with life-changing traineeships across Europe."

Working in another country can be a very enriching experience. That's why Spain's Ministry of Social Policy created the Galeuropa project. With help from the European Social Fund, Galeuropa has supported hundreds of young people from the Galicia region of northwest Spain to take part in traineeships abroad.

The Galeuropa project is open to people under the age of 30 who are not currently in employment, education or training. Priority is also given to people with disabilities, people in long term unemployment and people from poorer backgrounds."

The description of Galeuropa on the European Union website

Last year, Arousa Moza, a youth organization from Vilagarcía de Arousa (Galicia, Spain) join this program for the first time. In the next pages we invite you to discover more about them and Galeuropa programme.



Galeuropa

AROUSA MOZA - one of the most active NGOs in Villagarcía de Arousa



Arousa Mosa was founded in May 2017 by a group of young people who wanted to contribute to and help society, especially young people, through local and international projects and events.

It is a young association focused on promoting their own young people and culture, other ways of leisure and healthy lifestyle, and the importance of acknowledging and respecting diversity.

Moreover, the members want to promote the necessity of protecting the environment and the importance of our patrimony.

Through the NGO, the members try to create new opportunities for local young people, fight against hate speech, hatred, and exclusion. Their activity consists of projects about creativity through art, games, entertainment, but also of activities and workshops for the local community in order for them to develop key competences and improve their job opportunities.

Arousa Mosa volunteers who have experience in different fields, such as art, entrepreneurship, non-formal education, law, environment.



Galeuropa

AROUSA MOZA - one of the most active NGOs in Villagarcía de Arousa



Furthermore, they actively participate in Erasmus+ projects, through which they interact with people from different backgrounds, thus promoting one of our fundamental principles: tolerance.

The main objectives of AROUSA MOZA are:

- To dynamize the lives of young people in the Salnés region
- To increase interest in historical and environmental heritage
- To promote youth proactivity
- To increase the participation of young people in socio-cultural activities
- To defend multiculturalism
- To promote healthy behaviors
- To promote mobility and the creation of new associations.

In order to achieve these objectives, Arousa Moza focuses on organizing cultural, sports and educational activities, including outdoor and ecological activities such as excursions, camps and workshops; implementing training courses, seminars, public debates, round tables, talks and conferences, and activities related to knowledge sharing, other cultures and languages; participate and organize international learning mobility; perform agreements with public and private institutions, to achieve our objectives; develop proposals on policies and programs related to children, youth, health, education, the environment and volunteering.





Galeuropa

MORE THAN AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This year is the first time the team of Arousa Mosa decided to be part of the GALEUROPA Exchange program.

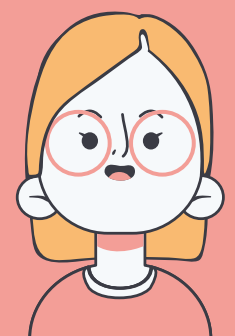
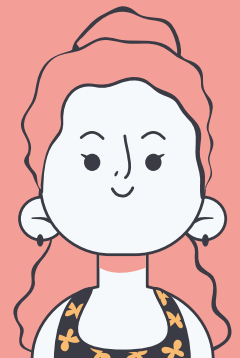
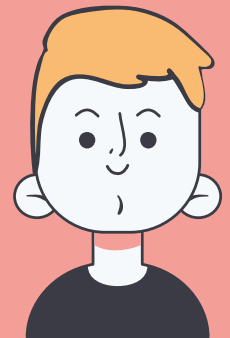
One of the fundamental reasons to take a step forward when starting to prepare all the paperwork to carry out the exchanges was the fact that the program itself responded so faithfully to the objectives and principles of the association.

This program gives the opportunity to young unemployed people from Spain to expand their curriculum and gain work experience through the realization of work practices in companies in other countries. The experience not only provides a clear professional growth, but also personal.

Practicing in other countries provides direct contact with other cultures, which exposes participants to the need to learn to live together, promoting tolerance. In addition, living in other countries where different languages are spoken, facilitates the learning of other languages, something highly valued today in the market labor.

During the selection process, the Arousa Mosa team evaluated the profiles of the candidates, prioritizing the long-term unemployed or people in more disadvantaged situations and with fewer opportunities.

The search of work placement was extraordinarily effective and satisfactory for the participants of the project, all thanks to the great work of the host association, which quickly began the search for more consistent companies.





Galeuropa

MORE THAN AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

"Today we can say that all participants have valued the experience in an exceptional way, which breaks any expectations we might firstly have had. The participants feel that this experience changed their lives, and that working abroad gave them the chance to see their work and career from a different perspective. This feedback is all we need for our work in helping them participate in this program."

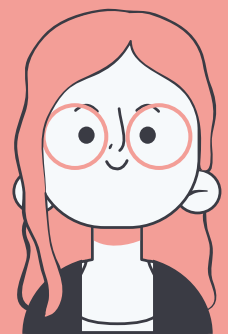
Borja Santamaria Gonzalez
president of Arousa Moza

"I decided to come to Romania through the "GALEUROPA" program to develop myself professionally, to obtain better language skills and discover a different culture.

During these three months my development expectations were met and I was surprised to discover a very similar culture far away from my country. I made a lot of new friends that made me feel welcomed and I will never forget them.

After many funny and unforgettable moments I could call Romania «a second home». I recommend everyone to get out of their comfort zone and take the step to a similar experience with no doubt. I would like to say «thank you» to members of the Asociatia Pentru Dezvoltare Activa and Asociación Arousa Moza for making possible this great experience."

Borja Iglesias, participant



Empowering

YOUNG PALESTINIAN WOMEN

Empowering young women does not begin with granting them financial support, but with hearing them, with including them and most importantly treating them as equal partners and decision-makers, not just beneficiaries.



*Article written by **Fadi Eshtayeh**,
Consultant, International Development Advisor, and founder of Loesje Palestine*

Empowering

YOUNG PALESTINIAN WOMEN

Working in the field of development in Palestine for more than ten years, half of those years were spent on working with Palestinian women to empower them economically through training them on how to start their own business.

Palestinian women have always taken the initiative to talk about the obstacles they face managing their own projects. One of the greatest challenges Palestinian women face chasing their dreams is the social pressure they struggle with each and every day.

WOMEN OF PALESTINE ARE FIGHTING TWO OCCUPATIONS

The first is the Israeli occupation, which does not hesitate in destroying not only their lands, but their dreams. The Israeli occupation violates their most basic human rights. These women have been fighting this occupation for more than 70 years.

The second occupation is the patriarchal system that they have to deal with and face each and every single day. A cultural heritage which gave birth to all kinds of social stigmas and expected gender roles stand in the way of women making a living for themselves and their families. Women struggle to prove that they are capable and able to be financially independent despite the challenges they face.



Empowering

YOUNG PALESTINIAN WOMEN

Everyone knows that the economic empowerment of women, the ability of women to make an economic change, is a great opportunity to strengthen their economic and social status. At the level of the state economy, as women make up half of society and thus half of their productive capacity and given the direct impact of women on the second half of society, it is imperative that they contribute to the development process on an equal basis with men.

Despite the fact that women make up almost half of Palestinian society, despite their educational opportunities, and hold of many ministerial positions, membership of the Legislative Council, senior administrative positions and the judiciary – their contribution to the labour force remains limited due to their low level of work experience and discrimination.

As a result of the social legacies, many Palestinian families are not allowed to go to work, in addition to matters related to women, such as marriage, pregnancy and childbirth.



Empowering

YOUNG PALESTINIAN WOMEN

The political participation of women in the Palestinian context is gaining a special status due to the specificity of the Palestinian political situation.

The Palestinian situation reflects a special situation for the political participation of women in terms of the percentage and type of participation. It should be studied according to the political context and specificity of the Palestinian situation.

The political situation in Palestine is in a gray phase: not an independent state, with all the entitlements necessary for political practice in terms of participation in elections or the rotation of power, the separation of powers and, most importantly, the existence of sovereign authority.

The gray phase makes it difficult to judge the political participation, in general, and the participation of women, in particular, through the indicators of political participation provided for in political science books or what is prevalent in other countries, such as the percentage of voter registration, voting in elections, or the percentage of women. It would be fair to judge women's participation through participation in the national struggle in general, whether formal or informal, whether institutional or non-institutional.



Empowering

YOUNG PALESTINIAN WOMEN

Palestinian participation in the work force is the lowest compared to the Middle East. Unemployment rate amongst Palestinian women is one of the highest in the world in general.

This percentage has many reasons , but the first one is the political instability of this country, The Palestinian economy is fully linked to the Palestinian cause and is the product of a long and complex existential conflict. The signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 made the Palestinian economy enjoy self-rule, which replaced the direct and full Israeli authorities over the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Palestinian National Authority (PNA), This does not mean that the Palestinian economy has become a free and scalable economy. Restrictions on movement and free trade were imposed, and Israeli settlements continued to spread in the Palestinian territories.

Land and farms have been largely destroyed, fighting over resources has continued and this area has been deprived of sovereignty: it has no boundaries, there is no free trade, no control of the crossings, no currency, not even an army.

The Palestinian economy is largely governed by the Israeli economy and policies, with financial assistance from Arab countries, EU and USA. This economy is also characterized by a high proportion of workers in Israel and abroad. World Bank warned on April 4, 2019 of a complete collapse of the Palestinian economy as a result of Israeli policies against the Palestinian economy.



Empowering

YOUNG PALESTINIAN WOMEN

Within my work as trainer I decided to collect reasons why women are not empowered and what challenges they face in their community, by asking 200 women to fill in a questionnaire. The answers below done by the number of occurrences per reason for each group why the participation of women in the labour force is so low these were the results: as indicated in the figure. 13 times the reason for Palestinian customs and traditions has been restored to the challenges women face in entering the labour market or setting up a private enterprise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NGOs can work on generating money on their own instead of depending on outside donations.

Strategies of the NGOs should have comprehensive programs that include women and men and in the different communities, due to the important role of men in supporting the participation of women in the work force. Not only do they need to include women, but men and stakeholders as well in the creation of the strategies that target vulnerable women in Palestine.

Inclusion of women in chamber of commerce rooms / empowering and activating the role of women in decision making positions.

Before starting a project, have a deep understanding of the community and its needs; A systematic follow-up and long term support are needed.



Costești

MOLDOVA YOUTH CAPITAL 2019



Costești

MOLDOVA YOUTH CAPITAL 2019

Together with two other national Moldavian NGOs, Alternativa NGO coordinated “Costesti - Capitala Tineretului 2019” (Costesti - Youth Capital 2019), title which they obtained in the national competition opened to all Moldavian cities.

The program’s main objective is creating multilateral development opportunities for young people active participation in the economic, social and cultural aspects of the community.

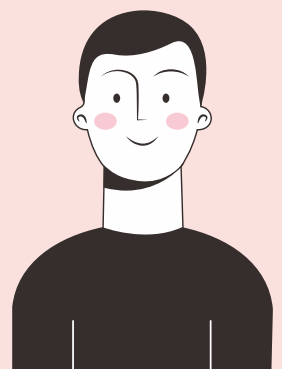
Through “Costesti - Youth Capital 2019” program, Alternativa aimed to implement youth policies at local level - since the positive impact of national youth policies is felt at the individual level, there is a need that these policies are actually implemented, where the needs of young people can be exactly identified and action can be taken.

More than 30 local and national activities took place as part of the program, including setting up a local club for young reporters, sports marathon, Erasmus+ international young exchanges and trainings, tourism, archeological and cultural camps, workshops on active citizenship, festivals, contests, studies and forums.

One of the most important events which took place under the “Costesti - Youth Capital 2019” title was ZIT- Ziua Internațională a Tineretului (International Youth Day), which aimed at promoting, motivating and valuing the creativity of young people and also raising awareness on the youth problem and needs.

ZIT was an event which focuses on youth leisure based on non formal education. It was a physical and temporal space which offered the space of leisure, adapted to the needs of the youth. In Costesti village, Alternativa organized this event on 10th August 2019, with more than 30 NGOs and Youth centres organized activities for more than 1500 young people.

On 7th December, for more than 200 young people and local authorities, Alternativa NGO held the closing ceremony of the „Costesti - Youth Capital 2019” program, through which they presented the results and impact of the program in the local community, but also to officially present the next youth capital: Sipoteni.





ALTERNATIVA ASSOCIATION

Asociatia Obstească Alternativa came to life in 2007 with main mission is building a community with equal opportunity for all its citizens. Under the slogan "Our young people - Our Future", Alternativa Association implements projects which promote a society where young people have full rights, multiplying policies and strategies which focus on increasing the living quality of people, especially healthy lifestyle.

Since 2007, we implemented 17 projects and were the main partner in ten small projects. With more than 12 years of activity, we succeed in creating opportunities for young Moldavian people to develop both personally and professionally, and offering a place where generations of active volunteers get involved in the community and where young people from rural areas get a chance to participate in activities from different domaines.

Maria Bivol
President of Alternativa Association





Europe Direct

A LINK BETWEEN EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS

"Vasile Alecsandri" University in Bacău is the only higher education institution from Romania that implements a project won in an European competition, through which the European Commission is according a specific grant for actions on hosting informing centers, documentation, dissemination, research and promoting activities for European regions, which would be part of the "Europe Direct Informing Centers Network"(EDIC).





Europe Direct

HOW AN EUROPE DIRECT CENTER WORKS?

From the 435 centers at European level, the EDIC network in Romania 25 of them which represent local contact points for all EU institutions and which:

- offers general information on European Union topics
- offers answers for questions regarding the European legislation, politics and funds
- organizes communication events on European topics
- communicates the reactions of the local public to the institutions of the Union
- offers free access and assistance for accessing the web pages of the EU institutions and other online European resources
- creates and offers publications and brochures on European subjects
- promotes local debates about the activity and politics of the European Union
- offers the contact data of the EU organizations that European citizens can contact.





Europe Direct

HOW AN EUROPE DIRECT CENTER WORKS?

Starting with 2008, the "Vasile Alecsandri" University from Bacău, in partnership with Bacău County and Bacău municipality, has signed four financing contracts with the European Comission, through the European Comision Reprzezsentation in Romania. The mission assumed by EDIC Bacău during over 10 years of existence consists in realizing specific activities for:

- Comunication in the European network and the establishment of contracts for implementing projects and finding partners in the European space
- Promoting the values of the European Union, the integration progress, functioning way of the European institutions and European Union, European politics and initiatives, financing sources and involvement – offering young people favorable framework for active involvement in volunteering actions and student practice, as well as Bacău citizens interested in developing civic and professional competences.
- Education and research through collaboration with state and private educational institutions or associations that conduct activities in the domain of education and continuous training, offering the framework for activities conducted by students, master students and doctoral students.
- Debate about the future of Europe, about the European youth and about European politics and programs.



Europe Direct

WHAT CAN YOU ACHIEVE IN A YEAR?

In 2019, the thematic of the proposed events and publications of the 'Europe Direct' Center Bacău implied:

- Organizing a county level campaign to increase social responsibility with the topic "the fire is in your power to change something", through a series of forum theatre representations
- Conducting the county level academic debate competition for highschool students, under the title "I choose Europe", in order to raise awareness on the importance of voting in the European elections 2019
- Conducting dialogues on European topics between the European Commission and authorities representatives in Romania, students, master students and specialists in various domains
- Organizing the second edition of the ECID Bacău conference with the topic „Strategies for increasing social inclusion at local and regional level“
- Publishing the bilingual brochure „Stories of Bacău, European destinies“
- Promoting European projects which took place in Bacău county.
- Realizing the 12th edition of the monthly E-newsletter.





PROJECT'S UPDATES

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY WORKSHOPS



+400

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BACAU COUNTY
TOOK PART IN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY WORKSHOPS

PROJECT'S UPDATES

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY WORKSHOPS

Between October - November we organized the last Youth for Democracy workshops: six workshops on participatory democracy with more than 400 young people from around Bacau county.

The idea of these workshops is based on our experience with young people from both our local community, and other communities, and from our previous Youth for Democracy activities on European Elections. We realised that young people are not familiarized with the concept of "participatory democracy", how they can be active in the community and different opportunities they have as young Europeans.

Therefore, in the context of the presidential elections from November 2019, we organized activities aimed to stimulate and contribute to youth participation in elections. Through this activities we wanted to define the "participatory democracy" concept and to emphasize the importance of active involvement in the community.





PROJECT'S UPDATES

Onești & Comănești | October 3rd 2019

We started the series of workshops in the beginning of October, with two events organized in Onesti and Comanesti.

The activities took place during the visit of Timothy McKinney from United Global Outreach (Orlando, USA) to ADA, who was invited to the events to talk about the American political system compared to the Romanian one, and about how young Americans are active in their community.

The first event was held in Onesti city, where with the help of Grigore Moisil National College, one of the European Parliament Ambassador Schools, more than 200 young people took part in the activity,

In the first part of the workshop we focused on the presidential elections and the roles of the Romanian national institutions, especially of the President. Moreover, we talked about the reasons why young people are one of the democracy's engines, and active engagement in the community, especially in an European context.

Afterwards, Timothy talked about the United States of America, their political system, the American lifestyle, underlying how youth participation can develop their communities. Furthermore, Laura, ADA's intern from Spain, offered us an overall image about youth participation in Spain.

In the second part of the workshop we wanted to interact more with the participants and to find out their needs and expectations in different fields. Therefore, we had a World Cafe which focused on the following subjects: Onesti city in 10 years, Young people and politics, Youth programmes, Young people - authorities communication, Young people and volunteering, "What should I do before voting?", Types of community engagement, Pupils' & students' benefits, "How social media influences decision making?", "How to use social media in attracting young people's involvement in the community" etc.

After the event in Onesti, we moved to Comanesti city, at Europe Direct Center, where we had the same message: young people are an important group in elections and can be one of the engines of democracy

PROJECT'S UPDATES

Onești & Comănești | October 3rd 2019



"It was interesting! I liked two things the most: the World Cafe because we worked with people from my highschool that I hadn't talked before, and that we had the opportunity to learn more about the U.S.A. Moreover, Tim answered different questions regarding the U.S after the event, and we learnt fun facts about them."

Cristiana, participant from Onesti



„The entire workshop on participatory democracy was a truly unique experience for me. Victor and Bianca, together with the special guests, Timothy McKinney and Laura Gaia, shared the diversity of the democratic processes from around the European Union (Romania, Brussels, Spain), and also from the United States of America, reminding us the importance of youth participation in the society. This activity was perfect in this context, the presidential elections. Youth for Democracy project inspired me one thing: courage. I'm now convinced that even though I represent a tiny procentage of the population, I can change what is going on around me. And I'm grateful that they inspired me this!"

Larisa, participant from Onesti





PROJECT'S UPDATES

Târgu Ocna & Sascut | November 6th 2019

We continued the workshops with two more activities held in Targu Ocna and Sascut on November 6th.

During our activity from Targu Ocna, we discussed with more than 100 young people about their vision of their community and what changes they would make. We can honestly say that they were curious and excited to know how they can get involved in making small, but important, changes in their everyday life and community.

In Sascut we had another World Cafe with more than 100 young people who thought and debated about similar topics as the young people from Onesti.

„The activity made us to think better to Sascut's resources and needs. We worked together, young people with different personalities, we thought about the challenges we face every day, which include education, arts, culture, sports, volunteering, social inclusion, etc. We thought about our rights as young citizens, some of them were familiar to us, and some not. We learnt from each other, we realised that we can see major changes in Sascut in 10 years, if we work together without getting uninterested regarding our community. I think that young people are the change! I started to notice this change last year and I think that the initiative group from Sascut will leave a mark in the community for future generations. Many thanks to the organizers who created another opportunity for young people from Sascut!“

Andreea, participant from Sascut

Therefore, we made a first step in consulting with the young people on elaborating the Youth Strategy of Sascut commune. The strategy will be elaborated by Active Development Association and implemented by the local authorities from Sascut.

"The activity was wonderful! I saw young involved people with a lot of desire in them. All of us had great ideas and something to say when it comes to Sascut. The activity represented another chance to see again that it is important to get involved and do activities in my commune."-

Camelia, participant from Sascut



PROJECT'S UPDATES

Bacău | November 16 & 22 2019

The last workshops took place in Bacau, being also the last activities of Youth for Democracy workshop.

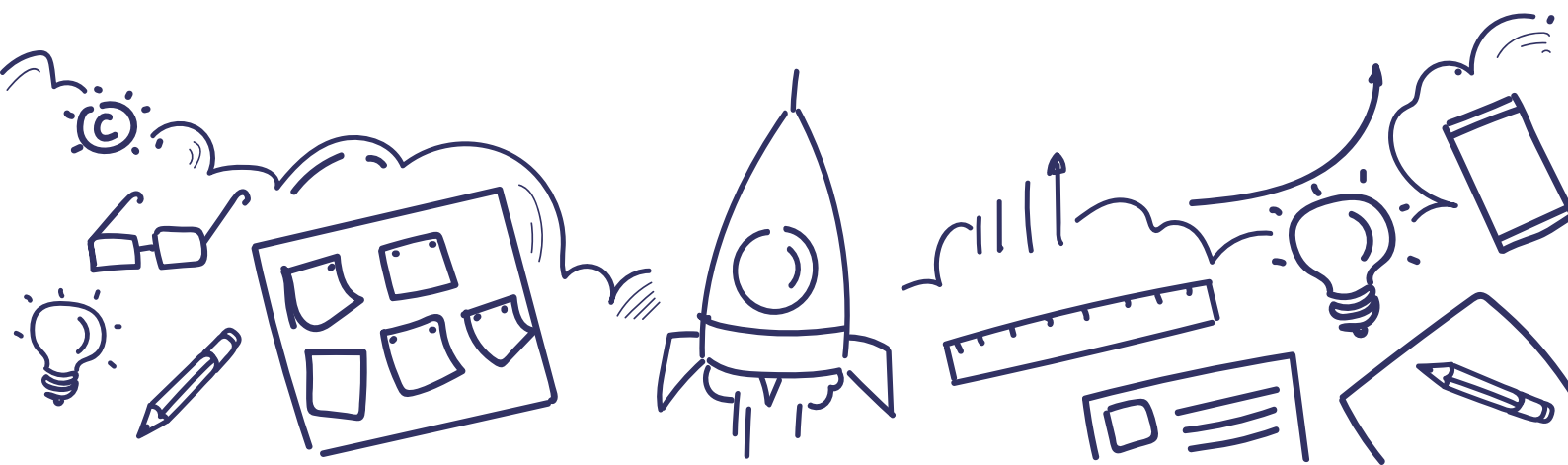
One of the workshops was dedicated to ADA volunteers, with whom we talked more about the concept of “participatory democracy” and further steps in promoting it in Bacau county. The last activity was held at “Vasile Alecsandri” University, where we talked with students about the presidential elections and their view on our future.

"Youth for Democracy meant 10 months in which we organized more than 20 activities throughout Bacau county, in order to show young people that democracy is about people and that each one's action matters in building a responsible and active society. We started our mission in February, with our campaign on promoting the European Parliament elections from May 2019, in eight cities from Bacau.

We ended the project with the same objective: to stimulate young people's participation in the elections, this time in the presidential ones, and to promote participatory democracy. We are more than happy that we reached out to more than 400 participants with our participatory democracy workshop, thing that shows us that young people want to take part in activities if they have the opportunity.

Even though Youth for Democracy project is ending, the project team is still active in promoting participatory democracy and civic engagement of young people."

Bianca Cristina Butacu, project's initiator & coordinator







TESTIMONIAL

Victor-Cătălin Toma, President of ADA

”

The Youth initiatives (Key action 1.2) represented one of the strengths of the Youth in Action programme. By supporting a group of young people to act locally, to solve their problems or to respond to a local need of their community, the European Union witnessed how young people can have a sustainable impact in their communities, but also the way these types of projects may contribute on long term to project the team members' personal, professional and social development.

Even though youth initiative were not included in the Erasmus+ programme after Youth in Action programme ended, we, ADA members, have always hoped that these type of projects would come back as one of the EU opportunities for the youth taking into consideration the fact that they proved their sustainability.

After 5 years of waiting, the youth initiatives were brought back as «solidarity projects» in the newest EU programme: European Solidarity Corps.

”



TESTIMONIAL

Victor-Cătălin Toma, President of ADA

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Active Development Association ADA was established after one such project, a youth initiative. Therefore, when Bianca had the idea of the Youth for Democracy project, I was happy, knowing the impact this type of project can have in the community.

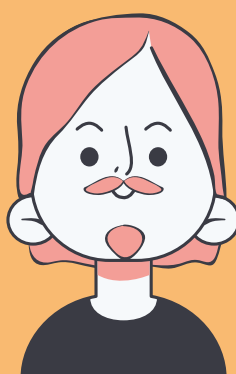
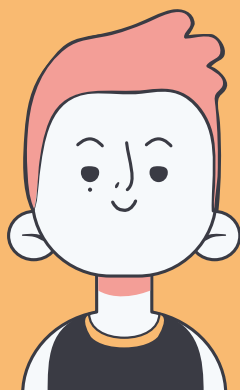
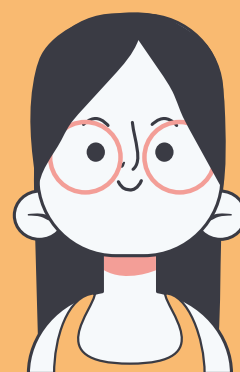
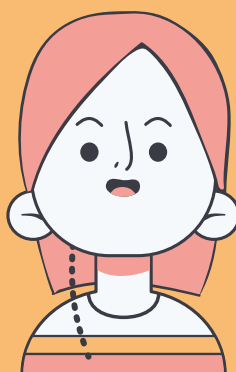
Promoting participatory democracy has been a priority for ADA since its establishment, and our volunteers, the project team, became the ambassadors of our mission in the local community.

I truly think “Youth for Democracy” is a success story in the field of democracy and education, but, most importantly, as a solidarity project.

The project meant more than 1000 km travelled around Bacau county, where we met with almost 1000 young people, who, we hope, understood the importance of being a responsible citizen and why democracy means being active and engaged in your community.

I am confident that the Youth for Democracy story and mission will continue not only through future activities and projects of Active Development Association, but also through the project team, as democracy and EU multipliers.”

”



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