

“Diversity for special needs education”

REPORT

Mobility 12-17 of March 2014, Burdur- Turkey

During the period 12-17 of March, a delegation from the Arges County participated at the second mobility within the European project „Diversity for special needs education”, in Burdur region, Turkey.

The delegation was led by **Mr. Florin TECAU**, Vice President of the Arges County Council and was formed of the following:

ARGES COUNTY COUNCIL

- Nicolae Velcea, President – Commission Budget, Finances, Studies, Outlooks and International Relationships;
- Roxana Stoenescu, project manager, Head of the International Relationships, Youth and Culture Department;
- Carmen Mocanu, financially responsible of the project;
- Ion Minzina, manager

THE SPECIAL SCHOOL SAINT FILOFTEIA, STEFANESTI

- Aurelia Dimcea, manager
- Gabriela Fianu, teacher
- Daniela Vilcu, teacher

SCHOOL NO. 16 I.L. CARAGIALE, PITESTI

- Mihaela Gruioniu, teacher
- Roxana Iacob, teacher
- Catalina Badiu, teacher

YF- YOUTH AND FUTURE ASSOCIATION

- Cristina Tecau, member of the association, teacher

Within the mobility’s programme took place visits at the partner institutions from Turkey: the Provincial Direction for Education, School for children with disabilities, Cumhuriyet İlkokulu School, Imam Hatip High School but also participation in working groups regarding the education system in the two countries, supporting teachers in what concerns the integration of the children with disabilities and creating links

between families and the community, acknowledge of the community regarding the important help which it can offer to the youth with special needs, identifying opportunities after graduation, encouraging parents to send children to school and to get involve in their children education, activities for the promotion of inclusive education.

Burdur Province registers a number of 255 000 inhabitants. Here function 259 schools for approximately 44 000 students. The maximum number of students in a class is of 6/8 children.

Trough the visits and the discussions, it was highlighted the role of the local public authority and of the school in the selection, evaluation and engagement of the didactic and non-didactic personnel in education. In what concerns the financing of schools for children with disabilities, the expenses are directly and integral covered by the state budget, as there isn't a ceiling or budget expenditure in which the school has to frame in. Everything in point of services, school transportation and meals is ensured by the state budget. For the small representations and maintenance of the buildings, an appeal is made to volunteers or sponsorships.



Unlike the Romanian education system, the number of teachers assigned to special schools in Turkey is much higher. The media is one teacher to two students. For example, in the Special School of Burdur involved in the project, there are 42 teachers at a number of 98 students, of which 15 students are schooled at home. Classes are between the hours 9:00-14.30 and then students participate in physical and mental recovery in the special school. After training, students return to the family.

The State has the obligation for the students with disabilities after the age of 18 to be socially integrated and to be offered jobs. In Turkey, institutions and enterprises have a requirement that 3% of the employees to be people with special needs, in view of their social integration.

Education specialists in Arges had the opportunity to get acquainted with the work methods and specific therapies used in the activity with children with disabilities and to share in their turn experiences gained in working with students from Romania.

One aspect appreciated by specialists from Arges was the community and family involvement in daily activities organized in the school. Mothers of children participate in activities such as tailoring, embroidery, hand-made activities in order to be with children in need, for both the child and the family to feel integrated into society.



Another visit took place at the Burdur Theoretical High School, where classes are taking place between 8.30 and 16.00. The number of students is of 476 and the number of teachers is of 36. It has to be remarked that the school benefits of a very young staff of teachers and we appreciate the fact that English language is studied in between 6-8 hours per week in foreign languages classes. We remarked a wish of the youth to communicate in English and to interact with the Romanian delegation, an ease of them and an interest of knowing as many things as possible about the guests, about the country and about the traditions from which they come from.

Under the aegis „My country”, the Turkish partners organized within the project a performance achieved with students with disabilities but also with the ones from the normal school, through which they presented traditional costumes , dances and specific songs, succeeding a remarkable integration of the youth with disabilities in the everyday life. At the performance attended parents, teachers and partners from Arges, but also representatives of the local authority and civil society. The performance ended with the play „Bridge of reconciliation”, a lesson of life presented in a special artistic manner.

During the visits, the delegation from Arges offered to the partner schools from Burdur products achieved within the mini-projects developed in Arges "My School" and "Making of martisoare". Through all this, a part of the Romanian traditions and the Arges school universe were introduced to students from Burdur. Saturday was dedicated to the conclusions of this visit. Were discussed the future activities that will take place within the project and the role of each of the partners, were discussed and prepared materials for the following newsletter and for the project's site www.diversityforsen.com .

At the invitation of Mr. Nurettin YILMAZ, the Governor of Burdur Province, the delegation of the Arges County Council had a series of discussions regarding the development of the partnership between Arges county and Burdur province, both in education and in fields of activity like local public administration, health, agriculture, and surrounding environment, economy.



The Vice President, Mr. Florin Tecau, invited Governor YILMAZ to make an acquaintance visit in Arges in order to continue the initiated intercession and to sign a partnership agreement. The answer was favorable and the next mobility will take place during the period 16-20 of June 2014 in Arges County.

In the last day of the mobility, took place a cultural visit to Pamukkale, under the aegis „This is my country“, which offered the possibility to the partners from Romania to be introduced to a part of the history, cultural and touristic richness of Turkey.