



REVIVE THE NATURE RELATED TRADITIONS! - BAIISOARA

Transylvania College, Cluj Napoca, Romania

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Project folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ODbZJwByTpw7kKpITvUrf1zkxY09O6lj>

Digital report: <https://spark.adobe.com/video/aVw34OtiaDboA>

During the 2016-2017 school year the high school students from Transylvania College have initiated a service learning project aimed at developing the community of Baisoara (a village situated at 60 km from Cluj). In the beginning, the main needs in the region were: development based on the touristic potential of the village and environment related aspects - raising awareness and protecting nature. Working in teams with the students from the local school, some more **needs were identified** and we addressed them in our part of the project: improving skills like: IT, English, communication, but also problem solving, critical and creative thinking.

Baisoara Mountain is turning from an old and beautiful mountain village into a touristic resort, fact that **affected the environment and the traditions**. Old villagers remember valuable aspects of local culture and they were willing to share and help us raise awareness about the traditional heritage.

Oral history is part of what we study at Transylvania College in primary and middle school, using project based learning. We started a **service learning project**, involving all our schoolmates in grades 4 and 6 (49 students) and also some of our high school colleagues from year 11 for guidance (media, technical aspects). Our project "**Revive the nature related traditions!**" had **2 main goals**:

- Promote the the nature related traditions in the mountain area of Muntele Baisorii village by raising awareness of the traditional heritage and by participating in traditional events, also contributing in organizing some of them;
- Working in teams with the students from the local school to practice together basic IT skills, basic English vocabulary and to produce materials for the Tourism Information Center.

From the SDG we aimed at: 3,4,8,11,15,17, but mainly: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Quality Education with leads to Decent Work and Economic Growth, and also Partnerships to achieve the Goal.

Outcomes:

- We learned about the nature related traditions in the mountain area in our county (by interacting with the people in Muntele Baisorii) - our oral history project, interviews with villagers.
- We practiced empathy and understanding of elderly people, we learned about their past, their beliefs and difficulties that they had to face over time.
- We encouraged the people to be proud of their traditional heritage and helped them promote it to the younger generations.
- We involved our partners and the students from the local school in promoting the traditional heritage - we had workshops together and organized and participated in traditional events in Baisoara and also in our home city.
- We contributed to raising awareness of the value of this heritage by producing materials - our presentations will be used by the high school media team and printed as flyers for the Tourist Information Center. They contain historical and geographical information about the region, but also information and photos related to the traditions from Baisoara and Muntele Baisorii.
- We used research, interview techniques, IT skills, speaking and writing skills in collecting data about the nature related traditions and in creating flyers and other marketing materials.
- We worked in teams, learned how to organize workshops or events, how to explain our colleagues

and guests what, how and why we were doing the different actions.

We also intended to promote and take eco-friendly actions aimed at developing the local community and reviving the nature related traditions - we intend to build there a “pedagogical forest”, in cooperation with Tasuleasa Project team - this will happen during the following month /next school year.

Skills we acquired:

- how to run an oral history project; how to conduct interviews and we practiced interviewing students or adults / villagers
- how to organize fundraising events in our school and local (rural) fairs in order to support the printing of the media/marketing materials for the Tourist Information Center, the transportation to and accommodation in Baisoara
- some IT skills (research on internet, Microsoft Office, slide presentations, Power Point or Keynote, Google Drive, Google Classroom), some basic media skills
- communication, problem solving, critical and creative thinking skills
- some aspects related to Service Learning and how to put them into practice, using curricular objectives in subjects like: Romanian, English, Civics, Social Studies, ICT, Art, Media Studies
- how to make a project plan, how to make decisions in a team, how to collect and put together all the project data in a simple and clear way, how to write a blog article

Beneficiaries:

- villagers from Muntele Baisorii (266 people) - they were so happy to share and to see that their life time experience is valued now and passed to the next generations
- tourists coming in the area of Muntele Baisorii for skiing, summer camps or traditional events will use the fliers and marketing materials
- students from the local school - at least 15 students participated in workshops with us (IT and communication skills, social-emotional development), but all the students of Baisoara school have now access to the new library we fundraised for and to the 10 computers we managed to donate.
- Transylvania College students in grades 4, 6A and 6B (54 students), 10 TC high school students involved in media literacy aspects of the project, 1 exchange student from Australia who participated in the traditional autumn fair
- students from Holy Innocents Episcopal School, Atlanta, USA - about 100 students involved in a curricular collaboration - project “Roots and Branches” a concept for project-based-learning exploration of some of the world’s beliefs and traditions.
- 24 students and 2 teachers from NOVA International Schools, Skopje, Macedonia, who visited our school during the project and we shared best practice about service learning

We are really grateful for the significant contribution made by our project **partners:**

Primăria Băișoara (townhall)

Școala “Ioan Luca” Băișoara (local school)

Asociația Stațiunea Muntele Băișorii (local ONG)

SC Eurogramin SRL

Round Square Organisation (guidance, partners)

CLAYSS - Centro Latinoamericano de Aprendizaje y Servicio Solidario (guidance)

Holy Innocents Episcopal School, Atlanta, USA (RS school looking for a partner)

We intend to stay in contact with the 2 villages (Muntele Baisorii and Baisoara) and collect data in the following years - if /how much our actions had a positive impact on the community life - to see **the long term impact**. And also continue to build projects together for the benefit of both (local community and TC students)

We are happy to see that the students from Baisoara are able to use the skills gained during our project and their teachers and school principal confirmed that they were confident, motivated and enthusiastic about this project and eager to start new ones. Two of the teachers from Baisoara School received - at our recommendation - scholarships for a Service Learning online training organized by our partner CLAYSS.