



Dear ,

Thank you for your Global Social Leaders Project Submission.

We have now reviewed your submission and have enclosed our feedback on your project overleaf.

What is the aim of your project?

Our project "Revive the nature related traditions!" has 2 main goals.

Our end in mind is to:

- Promote the the nature related traditions in the mountain area of Muntele Baisorii village by raising awareness of the traditional heritage and participating in traditional events, contributing in organizing them
- Work in teams with the students from the local school: help them practice basic IT skills, basic English vocabulary and then produce materials for the Tourism Information Center

What have you done so far?

Before the beginning of this project we were in contact with the people from Baisoara & Muntele Baisorii, as last 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 our city, in a beautiful mountain area. 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.

After the project feedback meeting at the end of the last school year, we identified new needs :

1. Helping the primary and middle school students from Baisoara and Muntele Baisorii improve skills like communication, English, IT, but also problem solving, critical and creative thinking.

(These students are involved in agricultural activities, as they need to help their parents. Those who would like to achieve more are aware of their better chances in a school from the city, but the distance is an impediment.)

2. We identified the need to raise awareness related to this traditional heritage and encourage the young generation of people in the region to go back to their roots, be proud and do not let them fade and be forgotten. (Muntele Baisorii is turning from a beautiful and full of traditions mountain village into a touristic resort. There are 2 ski slopes, but the new and modern elements which favor tourism have, in time, affected the environment and the local traditions which are mainly linked to the nature. Old villagers remember the very old and so valuable aspects of local culture and are willing to share.

We started this service learning project, involving all the students in grades 4 and 6 and also some of our high school colleagues from year 11 for guidance, mainly for the media aspects.

So our steps so far were:

- communicate with the team that worked on last school year's project, find their feedback on Baisoara and identify new needs for this year's project
- brainstorming - how can we get involved (our Young Round Square committee)
- meet a small team from Baisoara school, to see if they are interested in a project related to traditions and oral history
- ask our teachers and the management team for permission to start this project - we got their approval
- ask the classes who were involved in oral history projects if they are interested in a project on Baisoara (grades 4 and 6) - they are happy to have this as their service learning project
- form a leadership team for this project
- work as a team to find the title of the project and the basic lines
- start making the plan
- ask for help (involve at least 2 students from high school media team)
- plan the next visit in Muntele Baisorii
- initiate the IT devices donation campaign in our school (announcement, raise awareness of the need, involve the IT department)

What are your next steps?

In November-December we intend to:

- have a meeting with the villagers and plan the "Craciunul bunicilor" - "Grandparents Christmass" - which is a "sezatoare" an afternoon of story time about the traditions and sharing about old times in the village, all these while working on producing traditional objects
- interviewing as many villagers as possible - the nature related traditions for Christmas and New Year (involve the students from Baisoara)
- participating in this "Craciunul bunicilor - sezatoare" in the beginning of December
- starting to work on the materials related to traditions - for the tourist information center (involve the students from Baisoara, help them practice the skills they need)
- prepare the traditional Christmas Fair (in the village) together with the team from Baisoara school and the villagers
- organize the students' visit to our school, some games and team building, IT and English workshops
- involve them in the fundraising (our Saint Nicholas' Bazaar could have a traditional touch this year)
- plan in detail the steps related to the spring traditions - agree on the steps with the Baisoara team

What has gone well so far?

We are happy with the enthusiasm of our colleagues in grades 4 and 6 and also of the teachers who guide us and have agreed to link this project with the learning goals in their subject. We had great ideas during our meetings and brainstorming sessions and we work well as a team. We manage to find ways of putting them into practice. The IT department from our school has agreed to help us with the computer donations. The villagers from Baisoara are waiting for us and are happy to have the interviews - we think they feel valued.

What challenges have you faced?

It was difficult to find time for meetings/planning that works for all of us, so in the beginning we were delayed by this impediment. Now we are concerned of how often we can go to Baisoara - and if it is enough to help the student from the local school practice their skills. We were thinking of going there in turns (teams from the grades involved), so that we can offer them more sessions.

Our Feedback On Your Submission

Your submission has been reviewed on behalf of the Global Social Leaders team by Amy Mander.

Your project sounds great because...

You are building on a project that ran last year, which shows the Baisoara community that your commitment to supporting them is a sustained one. You have clearly identified needs that are based on feedback from last year, as well as asking the villagers themselves what they want help with. It is great that you are using specific times of the year and the celebrations attached with those periods to explore and promote the traditional ways of the people. I particularly like the fact that you are going to co-produce information for the tourist centre, so that these people have their own voice and are in control of their own representations.

It is also great that you are looking at how to combine your project with the school curriculum, as this will raise awareness of the issue as well as educating fellow students about the people from the Baisoara community.

Your project would be even better if...

You expressed concern that you are unable to visit the village very often in order to provide the learning service. Are you able to produce a learning booklet that the young people can work on when you are not there? Also, it might be worth identifying the stronger and more able learners in the group to run their own sessions when you are unable to be there. You mentioned going in different teams as a solution which I think is a good idea. To make this work in practice, you will need a very clear structure of sessions, so that the next team can pick up where the previous finished.

Try and get media coverage for your traditional events e.g. ask a local newspaper to come and write an article. You can then include these in what you provide for the tourism centre.

A website is a great idea to promote your project and the people you are helping. It would be really good to include some 'talking heads', which are video interviews of the people from the village (with their permission).

It would be worthwhile contacting the University to see if anyone is currently working with the Baisoara community. There may be anthropologists or similar academics who work with them who can support your project. You could invite them to come and give a talk at your school to help raise awareness and improve cultural understanding.

You should develop a broader plan for your school on how you raise further awareness and understanding of the Baisoara community. I would think through what you can learn from the community and share with your fellow students. It is great to hear you are planning to involve the IT department, but how can other departments be involved?

Our final thoughts

This is a really good project which is well thought through, and has a lot of potential. I would stress when you are doing a project helping a community, you also think through how you can gain and learn from them, so its a two-way exchange of information, culture and learning, not one-way. This is likely to have a far greater impact on the community, on your school and you as individuals.

Good luck with your project. Please do keep in touch with us.

- You can contact our team by emailing: social.leaders@future-foundations.co.uk
- You can also ask a question or live chat with us on our website: <https://www.globalsocialleaders.com/instantchat/>
- Later in the year, once the project is more developed, please do re-submit here for further feedback: <https://www.globalsocialleaders.com/submission/>.

We are looking forward to hearing how your project develops.

Amy Mander

Many thanks again for your project submission. We hope this feedback is useful and helps you going forward from here.