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Immersion BIP trip Thomas More University College, Evangelische Hochschule Ludwigsburg, Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie „Victor Babes” din Timișoara: March 19-26, 2023

Central theme: Inclusion

The Blended (interdisciplinary) Intensive Program (BIP) immersion trip designed for Social Work, Nursing, Midwifery, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Medical Rehabilitation students focused this year on the topic of inclusion and on the social- and healthcare system in Romania.

This program offered for the participating students a unique opportunity to meet with fellow students, teaching staff, other professionals, local people in a multi-professional and multicultural context. At the same time, it created a great framework to discuss students different study topics and on top of that, it was an exploration of the rich Romanian culture.

This year we had 13 students from Thomas More, Belgium, including 2 students from Ukraine and 1 of Finland doing their international scholarship (nursing and midwifery, social work and occupational therapy) (+ 3 docents: Filip Bode, Ria Bruijn and Karen Behaeghe; 13 students from the Evangelische Hochschule Ludwigsburg, Germany (social work) + 1 docent: Sandra Fietkau; 9 students from Victor Babes Medical university Timisoara, Romania (Medicine, physiotherapy and medical rehabilitation) + 2 docents: Daniela Șilindean and Elena Amăricăi. The program was set up together with ADR/TON and guided by Jozef Goebels (President of ADR/TON) and Ioan Suru, vice-president TON.

The proposed challenges had to ‘challenge’ the students to search for a deeper meaning or an explanation for the differences they have found or the observations they have made:

Challenge 1: Comparing the curricula of the different disciplines.

Challenge 2: Comparing the mental health situation or approach in Belgium / Germany / Romania.

Challenge 3: Creating a social map of Bozovici.

Challenge 4: Comparing the social-medical center ADAMSlatina-Timis with something likewise in your country (like a Belgian ‘wijkgezondheidscentrum’).

Challenge 5: Write an end-evaluation report on the process you have gone through and explaining your coaches how you have been working on the competences of this BIP.

The whole program had online introduction meetings, the physical trip with focused on study visits and followed by online meetings with Q&A and a final presentation on what has been learned. as a method to put theory into practice.

The immersion trip in Romania, March 19-26, was build up with visits of, and contacts with organizations and institution from their field and faced with situations, problems in real practice (for example: socio-economic differences related to different health status and opportunities in access to care). We chose to go from a big city, over smaller cities, to rural villages:

- Timisoara (Timis county) with 319.279 inhabitants as a big and international city:

- We paid visits on place in smaller groups the first day.
- There was a contact between the accompanying docents and the staff of the Victor Babes University: the vice rector for Academic Development and manager of the Timiș County Emergency Clinical Hospital, Prof. Dorel Săndesc; the vice rector for Didactic, Prof. Daniel Lighezan; the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Bogdan Timar; together with the vice-consul of Germany in Timisoara Siegfried Geilhausen and his wife.
- The second day presentations of different organizations and institutions at AMBASADA with Q&A were organized, also in the presence of the vice-consul of Germany and his wife.
- Resita (Caras-Severin County) with 83.985 inhabitants as a smaller county capital with visits on place and a meeting at the county council with the vice-president Marius Isac, responsible for social affairs accompanied by the responsible people of the social department and the president of the DSP (Directia de Sanatate Publica).
- Caransebes (Caras-Severin County) with 24.689 inhabitants as a smaller regional city with visits on place and meeting with the social department Caras-Severin.
- Bozovici (Caras-Severin County) with 2.924 inhabitants with visits on place, meeting with the mayor, vice-mayor and social department and talks with inhabitants to gather information for the social-map.
- Slatina-Timis (Caras-Severin County) with 3.105 inhabitants where the group stayed at and got information on the social-medical center ADAMSlatina-Timis; paid a visit to the kindergarten and daycare center for elderly; organized a play afternoon with a group of children of Slatina-Timis and joined/assisted Johny for the homecare visits at home and the needed treatment for patients.

The trip ended again in Timisoara where final conclusions were made and the awarding of the participation certificates was organized.

During their stay in Timisoara, the participants had the opportunity and were stimulated to catch an activity of "Timisoara European Capital of Cultural 2023".

As foreseen, this physical trip will be followed by an online Q&A meeting and at the end of April by a presentation of the students work and conclusions.

Already an agreement is made with the different partners for a next BIP Immersion trip next year 2024 to Belgium. Later on, will be decided on and applied for a new Erasmus project from 2025 on. All participants, as well students as docents were very delight regarding this trip, the new insights they got and the opportunity to see other cultures and meet and discuss with people from different nationalities. That's exactly also where an European Erasmus program is made for.

Jozef Goebels.