

Moldavia - Venture into Inclusion

By Hüseyin Koc 20/11/2017



Photo of La Maison Hotel by Hüseyin Koc

We stayed at La Maison hotel from 11/10/2017 to 18/10/2017. In this week we were meant to create a social enterprise business model and discuss about how to fight against social exclusion. We should focus on social entrepreneurship and what it is. Morten our trainer from inter-college gave us a quick summary of the plan for the week, where we were told that we had to use the women spa billiard room for the first three days, because the conference room was used already. Also, he told us about the house rules for the hotel, e.g. that we must smoke outside the hotel's premises and that we shouldn't be loud after 10 p.m. etc. Morten told us that the project was signed and developed by TEH. He wanted Lise From, chairman of TEH to introduce herself.

Lise From told us that she began her work at a Boarding for Youngsters and has over 10 years' experience working with people with disabilities. She told us that TEH began its work in the 90's in Romania with children with disabilities in institutions. Over the years TEH has worked with other countries like Ukraine, Russia and Ukraine.

Morten told us about Intercollege and he is finishing up his Master program, so he said that his current work was an internship.

Ceren said that they had worked in Denmark for 9 months EBS, they had been on an internship. 2010 was their first experience with social entrepreneurship work.

Mihail: Graduated as a lawyer this year and had already attended conferences about social entrepreneurships.

Matt: Who built houses for homeless people.

Cesil: Study to become a judge. There was also a guy named Andre.

From Italy there was someone who was educating themselves with psychology, another person was a photographer. Third person was 24 years old and had been to Spain. From Azerbaijan there was another

four people: One was a student, second was a social active engineer, third was a start-upper and was a 19-year-old who had participated five times in similar projects, but 1st time that it was an Erasmus+ project, also they were a social assistant.

From Moldova the first person who introduced themselves was on social assistance. They had worked together with a German NGO and used 4-5 years on maintaining ecology. Second one was on their first project. Third one was Alex, who had been raised in Berlin and worked as a journalist for 10 years. He had implemented Erasmus+ programs before. The fourth one was Karolina who had worked with the same ecology as the first person from Moldavia. Normally she worked as a Geography high school teacher. Last person was an 18 year old volunteer.

Kasper: Had worked with the NGO Gifted children. Hüseyin Koc: Worked for TEH with office work such as accounting and translating various texts from English to Danish or from Danish to English.

After we all introduced ourselves, we were asked by Ceren to write down our hopes, fears and contribution, which we wrote down on slip-notes. Examples of fears: No fear – It becomes too cold to go outside – Problems with communication and understanding because of the level of English – Not being able to express myself – Bad internet – Leaving the project. Examples of contributions: Sharing my ideas – Write an article after the project - Share/give experience from another Erasmus+ project. Examples of Expectations: Getting to know other people – Learn more about Erasmus+ - Make friends – To exchange experiences and ideas – To improve knowledge.

We went outside to do group building exercises. We began with Energizer, where we first should do the same as Ceren, then do the opposite of what Ceren says and then do the opposite of what Ceren does. We messed it up. After that we did Charades, where we were split into groups of five and one in each group had to read a line and then mimic it out to the person in front of them.

We also did name-game, where we all stood in a huge circle, and we had to repeat names from people to our right and do the movement that they had done. We also went inside to do human bingo, where we received a paper with boxes that had questions or descriptions in them, and then to fill them out with a name of a person that fits the boxes, also you can't use your own name. We could put the same name twice. Igor won this game.

The last game for the day was the computer game, where the background story was that we had to break a computer code or else it would send out nuclear missiles. The rules were as followed: Only one person was allowed within the circle at a time, and we had to hit 30 points in chronological order in 30 seconds to succeed. After this game we went in and talked about inclusion and exclusion, because not everyone got a chance to touch a point.

Finally, two games which lasted until the last day of the program: Kill kiss and Secret friend were introduced.

Thursday 12/10/2017 Social inclusion and exclusion

At 9:00 a.m. we met with Morten in the billiard room. The first thing he asked us to do was to imagine a park with a gatekeeper, children playing, grandparents sitting on a bench and someone selling ice cream. After getting time to imagine the park, we were asked if there were any people with disabilities in our imagination, a few had imagined them in the park, but mostly people with physical disabilities. Morten told us that we don't normally recognize people with mental disabilities.

Morten told us that we should see ability as what people are able to do, where the problem could be that they can't work full-time. Normally people doesn't have the tools to help people with disabilities. Radu told us that people with disabilities in Moldavia are hidden away, so no one must see them and therefore don't have to help them. Morten told us about social exclusion and that the main reason for this happening is poverty, for example: Poor people in India are placed in slums. Other reason for Social exclusion ex-criminals and addiction (drugs and alcohol). Kinds of exclusion: Bullying and Peer pressure. People who weren't included in general society, would find a group that would include you.

Morten did a quick run-down of UN standard rules 90-93. Guidelines for the government: How to include and have guidelines. These are not legally binding.

International treaty. To promote and protect human rights. 50 articles which were legally binding, and 172 countries had signed, where 98 of those had signed on the first day.

Morten told us we should do a top-down approach. Was there something we could do to make our local community more accessible to people with disabilities? He told us that we needed enforcement on the convention and that the government needs to be punished for not following.

How to raise awareness of people with disabilities? You could create organizations for people with disabilities and be put on tv. Kasper told us about a Danish Television program called Are you retarded? Where they exaggerated the disabilities, used hidden camera and humour to raise awareness.

We got a new challenge where we should build a pasta tower, where one of our teammates were made disabled by taking one of their senses/ability away.

After this Radu went up to do his presentation about his life, because he was an addict earlier in his life. Radu began by reading the poem: "Who will cry for the little boy". He told us that he was lucky to still be alive, because he did three suicide attempts. "A success story is always proceeded by failures" he said. Radu's first marginalization happened, when he was a kid back in 1980 under Soviet Union rule. He didn't have much need, because his parents were part of the upper middle-class, who respectively had become directors from going up the social ladder. Radu told us about the argument with his father, where Radu was correct, but he still got hit.

His second marginalization happened when he was 11 years old at a summer camp, where there were mostly children from working class, who all had grown up on the street. He was bullied and abused excluding sexual, there was no reaction from his dad. In 6th grade he formed a band, but they broke up after 14-15 quarrels over a period of 2-3 months.

Radu shaved his head and started to go to boxing club, he did it because he wanted to become stronger. He became good at it because he had a lot of anger. Radu became more of an excluded loner. "When I turned 21 years old and was in 2nd year of university – I did my first suicide attempt. I felt like a loser compared to my peers and I was in a coma for 40 minutes" Radu said. Six months after he did his 2nd suicide attempt, where he did 12 cuts. Radu was marginalized by the rest of his family and colleagues, and his parents did not want to talk about it and made him wear long sleeves. "My colleagues began to avoid me completely." Radu was sent to the house for mentally ill. He was misdiagnosed of Schizophrenia. He got seizures and became addicted to other drugs like muscle relaxations. "I was addicted to Alcohol from when I was 14-15 years old, and became a drug addict at 20-21 years old." "When you're addicted you cannot trust anyone and people cannot trust them." Radu said. It was difficult to find a job when you have a mental disability, because your employer can see your data. Therefore, Radu saw people with lower abilities getting jobs. "When I turned 26-year-old I experienced love for the first time and I got married 3 years later, but got divorced 2 years after" Radu told us. She was a psycho therapist, who could see that he is not schizophrenic, even though Radu had started to believe the label.

In 2006 Radu got his diagnosis lifted and got rid of the believe. His addiction got worse and he was hospitalized four times. He had a job as boxing sparring partner, but he still felt excluded. He was a functioning alcoholic and drug addict, who felt like he was living a lie.

When he tried to become sober for a period of 2 year and 11 months. He became an adrenaline addict, so he was out for revenge against anyone who does people wrong, which he did every 2 weeks. He has been arrested after stabbing someone two times, but luckily for Radu, it was one inch away from the liver. Radu told us that his father was an alcoholic, so there was a whole culture behind it.

When Radu turned 28 years old, he thought about doing his Master's degree, but his cousin talked him out of it. Now at 37 he is at the second year of his master's degree. Radu believes that life is just a sequence of circumstances. He quit his addiction because he got scared by a daydream of his future self. He knew there was no guarantee that he would die, so his greatest fear was to live as a vegetable.

Radu was on social assistance – Currently one of the best in his class.

Radu believed that people are like trees, and they must be treated with care or they become crooked. He was asked how it felt being addicted to drugs. "It feels like you are a totally different person like an alien entity" Radu answered. He was asked why he was divorced. "She divorced me, because I couldn't quit my addiction, and she just couldn't drag me around anymore, so she had to cut the rope" Radu answered.

Social inclusion and exclusion

Christian came in to tell us about it. "Exclusion is always dangerous. Treat everyone equally." he proclaimed. When Social exclusion happened, it might lead to crime. In many countries orphans 16-18 were thrown on the street.

Christian told us that he had been in Greece, where he met a Romanian Social Worker. There were 2 people training orphans in each room. We taught them about food, housing etc. Also, about how to be sure not to get fired.

"By doing social exclusion we deprive ourselves from abilities and different interpretations," Christian said. "We exclude people, because we fear what we don't understand."

Social separation happened with groups like the Amish. They still need to be treated equally PWD. Make sure that people feel useful. High-school students given hopes and dreams.

"We should strive to develop an individual and society" Christian proclaimed. Negative stream of emotions could cause social exclusion. "I opened a gym with a friend, who became negative after breaking up with his girlfriend."

We got the assignment to write down our three most important goals. Goals should be precise and manageable. Who should help people to reach their goals? A great leader doesn't create followers, but creates leaders. The differences between leader and managers were that managers say, but leaders do. Leaders promoted values and doing things right. In Moldavia the President was a leader, who guided people. The direction was wrong from his subjective perspective. "Manager is an occupation, while people define a leader." Christian gave us homework: Which was that we should give 25 solutions to the question of social exclusion.

We were told about the Iceberg model, a model where under the surface values were located. People were judgemental and their perception. Dig deep inside, because over water is what we heard.

"In Romania people are kicked out when they're 21 years old."



Photo from the temporary conference room in the women spa

13/10/2017 Alexis

A speaker who was from California came to speak with us. She has worked with Development in international relations. Alexis: Social entrepreneur.

The focus of NGO: To provide social help.

“NGO is not allowed to make money, but is still built like a normal business, and are usually used to solve a social issue,” Alexis told us.

She began to tell us about the history of NGO: It all began 150 years ago with a radical new business idea. 100 million people were touched by it. It became international. Independent organizations began to be created.

An example: Mobile schools – right on the street, where 50000 street children were offered education in various skills.

NGO targets groups like cancer patients, breast cancer victims, team of blind women and Down syndrome children etc. An example of a NGO was The Specialist – who teaches people with autism to work with IT. In Bangladesh another NGO called Grameen Bank (Bank for the poor), which removed collateral and based on trust. 9 million people has used then service, which meant it has a reach of 80000 villages.

She gave us an example of a person, who had worked in the fashion industry, who was tired of all the waste of material, so they created ECO Alf that had focus on Environmental issue, like in this case how to use waste for clothes. NGO number had grown with 60% in the last 8 years, especially increased in Europe.

Mikhail talked about REMESH, which created purses and bags etc. from used banners. The people the organization helped were abused women and gypsies by teaching them how to sew. The results were sold to companies for employees.

Nihat told about a problem in his country that there were almost no individual engineers. So he was part of a project where 10 professionals would promote engineering at schools by teaching people basic software and social skills. He would get the money to the project from grants and investments from for example donors. The idea was that every member adds a feature to the project.

Georgia: They wanted to help people with disabilities, especially important after the war with Russia in 2008, which created lots of refugees. You need to be clever, enthusiastic and a donor. The refugees can't go back home, where they had their own profession. Also, Social Enterprise was a recent thing that came to the country. Government was oriented around it.

"We produce too much waste," Radu said.

Alexis told us that it was easier now for people all around the world to join in Social entrepreneurship, because the internet can help us to find out about problems in other countries.

Kasper began his presentation with talking about Mensa a non-political organization for people who score high on STE tests. They had a sister organization Gifted Children that was a political organization, it worked with bright children, but who need help.

Radu told about Romania, where they began NGO 3-4 years ago, at the time they didn't include marginalized and people with disabilities. People became more aware on how to do that kind of business, especially on how to help the environment. They got worms to produce better soil. The workshops attracted young people from universities. They got taught how to repair stuff. One enterprise recycles headsets and other broken stuff. There was ecological villa, which was an organic farm. It held seminars sometimes for free. Also new start-ups began to pop up. For example, Rash which made napkins for restaurants from old clothing.

Alexis told about us Restart and how it began: Alexis had a background with working with NGO's, when you worked with that that meant you worked harder, but for less money. Alexis was angry at rich people, because they didn't do anything to help poor people, she had read from Amnesty that 8 families owned approx. 80% of the world's wealth. To create an NGO she had to sell people an idea to the problem that tens of thousands of refugees had a higher education, which they had to because they had to travel for 2 years and 8 months. For finance sources she contacted KIVA, which was a global and digital organization that allows people doing crowdsourcing for social entrepreneurs.

She also hoped that high-school students would fund it, because she believed that it was common interest getting people to work. Funding entrepreneurs took a lot of paperwork and asking around. NGO made up 10% of companies. They were looked at as powerful partners. It had become a cultural movement. She wanted to do defrauding, because it took more money for service.

She told us one of her thoughts was you need to build something instead of fighting.

Alexis gave us advice on how to motivate people:

-) Do an appeal to their motivation by trying to convince them that this is beneficial and an innovative idea.
-) Do positive reinforcement

She gave us a quick rundown on what we should keep in mind when designing our own business model for real:

-) Make it not incentivizing to get money back
-) Make the idea sustainable
-) Proper and clear explanation of your purpose and how you want to solve problems.
-) Communicate with everyone
-) Become intimate with the problem by becoming an expert on it.
-) Keep it rational not emotional.
-) You should never try to change other people's political ideals.
-) Find partners, who can help you with for example getting refugees business ready.
-) Create a budget, and then find out how to finance your project.
-) In the budget planning phase remember to set goals for a certain period of time (Mostly for local projects).

Alexis reminded us that people were hungry for feel-good stories, so people should use that to their advantage.

Some of us worked on doing presentations of ideas to social enterprises. Radu went up first and presented his idea of a free rehab centre in Moldavia. For him the biggest problem was alcohol and drug addicts. He thought about rehab outsourcing, because Moldavia already did that with getting teeth fixed by Italians. The rehab centre should be open and not taken away from addicts after a year.

Alexandrina's initial idea targeted people who had difficulties with mental problems, which was 1 of 4 people, she proclaimed. She wanted to create a mindfulness centre, where you could come to heal your mind, body and soul, which would be done through meditation, journaling, gratitude, nutrition, yoga and session in nature. We could offer value by giving someone hand-made socks.

The next idea was an environmental one connected to plastic in rivers. This plastic should be used to create building available to tourists, and local peasants could be paid to take care of building.

Nihat began his presentation with a quote from Thomas Edison. His idea targeted Engineering students and amateurs in technology and social aspects. He wanted to create a learning lab, where people could get practical knowledge.

Kasper was inspired by Khan Academy an internet learning site. It was created by a guy owning Invest banking in NY. It happened because he wanted to help his nieces with mathematics through online video. In this program the teacher can see progress and who has problems. Kasper wanted to create a Danish version, which should be available to 3 classes in Denmark and then spread it to the rest of the country.

The next idea was aimed at people, who cannot find jobs, both for people on financial support and people with disabilities. The training would be free, which should help people to find a job and then pay a bit of money to help more people in getting a job.

Mehmet's idea was related to refugees who lived in tents, but low integration, so therefore he suggested that we took students who cannot find internships and sent them into internship with refugees to train children, so these children can get a job later in life.

Matei's idea was about food storage, which they would create to local farmers who cannot afford storing devices. Try to get food sold, because the community cannot get money, because youngsters are moving away from the areas. They would also help farmers to get food sold to super markets.

Simona's idea was fighting racism, sexism and discrimination by making a group go into schools once a week to teach children about why it's wrong. She suggested it became financed by families donating school books.

Kenan's idea was aimed at orphans, because their country's Government is cold on the issue. So, with this social enterprise Kenan wanted to create accommodation and food. They became drug addicts, because they couldn't get jobs. So, to help them he wanted to do promotion for companies, so they could give orphans jobs, while also getting families to provide food and job. Kenan would take 10% of profit to help people.

We went on to the selection process, where we got four slip notes to vote, which ideas we wanted to work with and we can put more than one on each to raise our priority of getting on the idea. We had to make a short presentation to try to sell the idea.

My group talked about creating workshops about knitting and sewing and then sell the finished product to finance our business. We also agreed that people with stress were welcome in our mindfulness centre. We agreed that no electronic devices should be allowed to ensure that the environment isn't stressful, and it keeps on being secluded. The only thing people had to pay for was a small entry fee and paid for accommodation. We even had the idea that visitors should draw how they feel before and after they have done the program.

First ones to present was the plastic in rivers group, where they wanted to build something to collect bottles, and then use a cracking machine to make plastic fibre and use a 3D printer to create souvenirs.

Next up was the Kasper's group: They wanted to teach children by providing an online service in the fields of Geography, Mathematics and Physics. Kasper told us that he wanted to sell knowledge to schools, and wanted small sponsorships to finance the service. Their customers were companies, teachers and parents.

The fighting racism, sexism and discrimination idea was next, where the group told us that it was useful for children and students. They proclaimed that their main goal was to fight sexism, racism and intolerance. To finance this, they wanted parents to donate, create cooking workshops, sport competition and sponsors.

Then Radu with his group presented his Rehab center idea: They wanted to save lives and help addicts to be able to live normally and get back their identity. They also wanted to invite people and incorporate the patients. They would hire doctors, and get volunteer cooking service and donations. We need to wrap-up it up as being attractive, so it looks expensive. "If you're hungry you should eat instead of 100 other things."

We got to the food storage idea. They wanted to help farmers sell food and get supermarkets to sell the farmers products. They wanted to tell farmers and supermarkets about advantages of a partnership. For example, how supermarkets can save money on transport. Finance source would be collective, and they would use crowdsourcing.

Finally, my group presented the mindfulness center. We would give people tools to change lifestyle. We also presented the idea that we wanted to give students internships. Then we presented the idea of the visitors drawing their feelings, when entering the center and after going through the program. We wanted to advertise through artistic videos on social media. To get people we also wanted to talk to owners of

companies to send people over. Then we talked about the participation fee and that visitors must pay food and accommodation. We were also going to get donors and we crafted carpet to sell online.

From 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. we worked on our business model, I was on a team with Alexandrina, Ruslan and Kenan. We saw a video which helped us to make it, because it went through the nine steps. On the first step we should remember to tell people why we're making this business, so start with the why instead of what.

14/10/2017 Erasmus+ told by Asser

This day started with Morten's boss running late, so we received a signature list and were told that we did an amazing job yesterday. We finally had the conference room.

Asser started with quickly presenting Erasmus+, which had funded this project. "Erasmus+ is a tool, which reaches out to get Euro funding," he said. Asser went on to introduce himself: He had worked for EU and was part of the Development of international relations at Aalborg University. Thereafter he told us about EU using approx. 14.7 billion Euros on young people, but he also made sure to point out that free money does not exist and that it took a lot of work to implement funding successfully. Asser wanted to know what we knew about EU, because in his experience he believed that he knew very little about EU. We received 4 questions and got split into 4 teams.

The first group had to answer the question of why the EU was created. It began as a coal and steel union in 1951. Asser got their answer and added that Europe was in ruins because of WWII. There was a food shortage, but France and Germany couldn't produce food. So, to ensure peace in Europe, so the Rome treaty was signed in the Maastricht district. Their corner stones were peace, integration, freedom of expression and democracy etc.

The second group got another question of if EU is a State or not, we answered that pros were: EU has free borders between member countries, common central banking and that EU ensures free choice of education and free mobility between workers. Against is was that the tax systems were on national levels, they have no army and that some countries hadn't adopted the Euro. Also, no constitution.

Asser answered that EU had an army, which didn't have a mandate against Russia and the army could only defend people from dictators. When EU had to do decision making process where every member had to say yes. "Yes, EU doesn't have a constitution, but neither does Britain, but Britain is still a State" Asser argued. The reason for this was that France didn't want a constitution, so it went into referendum, then Netherlands said "no". They had an amendment treaty. In 1964 Mr. Cortas wanted to nationalize, but Italy couldn't do that. Asser told that EU law was above national law, even constitutional law. Tariff doesn't exist, because you can't do that in Netherlands.

"In Moldavia you can use Rubels or Lei depending on what part of the country you are in" someone said.

One of the benefits for members was that you could get services, and you could go to any member embassy if there was no embassy from your country.

Asser broke up modern Western history into 3 waves:

-) 1st wave federation: Colonization
-) 2nd wave federation: The breakdown of British empire
-) 3rd wave federation: EU

The third group answered their question: It targeted youth and education. Advising, supervising and providing. How to solve this problem and helps you to make your own vision become true.

Asser explained that there were two kinds of competences that EU used: the first one was exclusive competences, which only EU decided. They got used when for example Romania wanted lower tariffs from

Ukraine. Asser mentioned Cecilia Maelstroem. The apples could go anywhere like Marine biology. They were for the most part monetary.

The second one was supportive competences, which could support member countries in policy – for example proposals and suggestions. He pointed out these might be more powerful than shared competences. EU could use subsidies and could even bypass Government policy. They made sure that there was a 40% increase in youth and education area.

Asser reminded us that EU was and always has been political institution, who wanted to do policy.

4th group answered the question about why EU would use that much money on youths. Young people are the strongest and the future, so it was all about doing an investment.

Asser told them that EU did it with expectation to get more money back by creating growth in the NBP. What benefit does the individual person get from this? Well, people get to know each other. There were 1 million babies born from Erasmus+. Ensures that things were peaceful. Erasmus+ worked with mobility, and in Danish industry they wanted to focus on education. In Denmark there was a problem with a deficit labour force, companies couldn't find workers.

"EU was an institution to create peace and could look a bit like a State" Asser said.

After Asser had finished, a new person Daniel came in to do his presentation, but first he introduced himself to us: Daniel had a British passport and had worked for 5 years in Denmark with youth, because of Erasmus+. He started this kind of work back in 2008-2009 for a youth organization. After he had lost his job as an architect, which he had worked with for 5 years. Which made him different from Asser and Morten, because they were educated within the field of social entrepreneurship. He talked about Youth exchange program and told us that Erasmus+ was a tool for policy implementation. "They had to find about visions of what they want to achieve," Daniel said.

He showed us two videos, one about EU 2020 current strategy, which was about how to do smart and sustainable growth and how to make it inclusive. The second was about ET 2020 framework for Education and training.

Daniel told us that when making our project and sending in an application that we should make our ideas align with EU's objectives, and goals and should have found out about benefit for youth.

He told us about the two forms of education supported. Vocational education, which was practical based education that puts in a job. Then there was non-formal education (adults): Voluntary.

There were 3 key actions with different objectives. We were split into six groups to find answers in a book related to what Daniel had told us.

1: Moving people, which targets young people and youth workers. EVS: European voluntary service. There was youth exchange, which engaged in common activities with a general theme. It developed youth workers capacity with training courses and more. Then there was TOTs: Training of trainers, sturdy visits which were good for cultural heritage education.

Big events for 15 organizations were organized. Another way to get knowledge was to do job shadowing, where you observe and can give feedback to another worker that you observe for a certain period. Finally, there was seminars, where youth leaders develop a new strategy.

2: Companies and youth organizations. Strategic partnerships were made to address a need. People joined forces. The duration took 2-3 years to develop. There was intellectual output and open resource. Capacity building was started, which could work in any country. After this they developed capacity, which can do anything in 1 year. Daniel told about non-formal education to assessment. About social skills in Nepal and

Indian Kathmandu. A clever idea when doing this was to have a learning diary, where you could write down what you had learned for each day. The youth exchange had 48 people, and it ended with evaluation.

3: Reform policy: forming an environment where youths have more independence and self-determination. Funding activities between youths and decision makers, which could be trans-national or be a local activity. One example was how people tried to engage youths with hip-hop in London. There were also made reverse panels, where the decision makers were the ones who asked the youths questions. The youths age-range: 13-30 years old.

4. In a study exchange, you were in a different country than the one of residence. This ensures that the youth develops new competences and discover unfamiliar cultures. A structural learning program, which had a fixed amount of time for a day, the objective was to create solidarity for 5 countries.

At sport meetings there had to be at minimum 6 participants and 2 leaders and there had to be at least 1 leader for each group. People had to be fundamental in facilitating the activities.

There were several organization, which implement practices and do exchange of these practices. Partners need a range of expertise, when doing cooperation around a shared vision or product. The optimal would be expertise from various sectors.

5. Cooperation of exchanging ideas.

Promotion of active citizenship. Cooperate with a 3rd country which is not a neighbour country to a member country. You must remember to justify why you chose those countries, so you can't just pick a random country you wanted to go to.

6. Policy reform – Create events for youths and decision makers.

You can create conferences or create debates between youths and employers. "You have to have politicians in there, because they are the decision makers," Daniel interjected.

After this we played six different games, which were related to innovation.

Alexis came in to present another social enterprise called Tom's shoes, which objective was to get people to buy a pair of shoes, so someone else could get a pair of shoes for free. They mainly advertised themselves through word of mouth, social media and through advertising partners. Their biggest problem was how they got more people to buy more shoes. Planned obsolescence and designed to last for a short-fixed period. Alexis also had a pair of shoes to show us them.

Then each group got seven minutes to present their business.

First group presented their business, which was about future aid to create a peaceful and respectful society. They wanted to advertise it through Facebook and Twitter. They wanted to be in touch with society with open hours and doing seminars at Universities. Also, they would make sure to keep in touch with parents. To get money they would make bakery workshop and by having a participation fee. They wanted to hire people from universities, which had experience with 5-10-year olds, because they should teach children. They would need projectors for this business.

The second group business, was made to increase local economy to not make sure people can live. They also wanted to lower impact on the environment by lowering transport and to make the countryside more profitable. They would do this by teaching the local farmers how to increase their production, and how to make their own compost. This they do to solve the waste problem, and they provide consulting. The people they were targeting are supermarkets and farmers. To advertise they wanted to use physical and web, for the physical they wanted to use local posts. To finance it they would use money from direct sales and

provide service (maybe) by renting storage. What they had to pay for was administration cost, local delivery partners, farmers and Union of farmers. Things they need for the business were land, trucks and human resources.

Someone suggested that they should try to implement alternative energy to the business.

The third group was IDPD, which was about helping youths with school by creating an internet teaching program, which cover these subjects Mathematics, chemistry and physics. This was aimed at young children in high school and primary school. To advertise they wanted to use social media. The target-group was children of the age 10-18. The costs of this were salary to teachers. Partnerships they wanted was with Youtube, Danish TV, schools and universities. What they were selling was video lectures and production. They needed funding, glass board, microphone, video editor, manager salary and teachers. Also, they wanted sponsors in the form of Youtube, charity organizations. Someone commented: People could do it for free.

Photo of group doing presentation of their business model

The fourth group presented Out-Reach, which was the Rehab program that Radu came up with. The objective was solving problems and need of addicts. They targeted educated people on substances and doctors. They wanted to advertise in scientific magazines and social media. To finance they wanted donations from health care sector and patients if they want to. They wanted to hire volunteers who can help. Here is what they needed: Humans, self-made furniture, public buildings and experts in the field who can improve services. The business was non-profit. The difference between this Rehab centre and other of its kind was that addicts normally could only be there for few months to half a year, but here people can be there for how long they wanted to be there. Radu wanted people to do work voluntarily.

Fifth group had changed their idea from plastic building to instead make backpacks, which they called Bio-Backpacks. They wanted to produce as backpacks out of plastic collected from rivers. They said that the backpack was self-charging and it had built in security. They were going to get machines that can make plastic into fibre, then they also wanted to create a website, where they could sell their backpacks online. They wanted do shipping by mail. Everyone could get one and it costs €250. Also for each one bought, one will go to poor people. They would finance this by selling products and receiving donations. People and villagers. Comments were: Make a hotel. Could get the Recycling NGO in Romania to help.

After this Alexis praised us on our great presentations.



15/10/2017 Sunday the Pitch

This day we began with a Pitch game, where we got 30 words and 5 minutes to pitch an idea based on two randomly picked words. One of the ideas we got was to transplant an opera singer's vocal cords into a giraffe.

After this game we got the task of making a short presentation for four minutes, one was mutant wine for mutants. Another was a lighting installation that projects quote that helps people achieve their goals. There was also another plastic backpack idea. Star cakes with the face of a celebrity. Also, a fat pill which makes you fat, which tastes like mutant wine. Another pill that could make more aware and give them the ability to see the future.

Alexis told us how to do selling proposals. We need to make sure that shared idea was enrolled in vision. You also had to make sure that your audience believes in your idea before trying to sell it. So, you had to know your audience and make your explanation so simple that even a 6-year-old could understand it. Also remember that the conclusion was as important as the beginning. Also using a lot of visuals was beneficial too for your proposal. Be sure to pay attention to verbal and non-verbal body language and how you pronounce things. Also include pauses to give your audience to help them process things.

We saw a video Simon Sinek Ted Talk – Start with Why. Where he explained you had to start with Why, what and how. Also, Alexis reminded us that we need to be creative. Alexis told us that we should send presentations to her at Alexis@RestartRefugees.com.

Radu said, "There's no community for people with mental disabilities" Alexis reminded us that our pitch should be a choice and that we're not doctors, so we shouldn't try to sell our idea as better than doctors.

The pitch should have started 4:00 p.m., but because of technical difficulties it began at 4:16 p.m.

First was the Bio-Backpack, which they said would help prevent dangerous marine pollution, which was important because species were going extinct. By using plastic, they were preventing pollution. It would be the first company of this kind in Romania and would include local villagers.

Second was IDPD, where they tried to sell the idea of online learning, because it would be good for children who need visual aid to learn. They would do this by using a glass board and 3D models.

Third was Out-Reach, which was sold on that it taught people how to deal with the problem themselves. Radu pointed that he doesn't want to use donors who want something out of giving them money.

Fourth was FutureED: Stop violence and work towards promoting inclusion. Schools should use our service to make a better society. They wanted to make society colourful and make it different. Also, the group threw confetti and they wanted me to send pictures I took to them.

Fifth was the food storage which was sold on the fact that it would help local farmers and prevent pollution by long transport.

The organisers were proud that we could accomplish a lot in such a brief time. "In all my years I have not met a group that was so enthusiastic for this." Asser said.

At 8:00 p.m. cultural night.

Each country represented in this project did a presentation, except Romania and Moldavia, because they shared a presentation, since they share history because they once were the same country, but that changed after Russia invaded and split them into two countries.

First up was Denmark presented by Kasper and Morten: They told us about Dannebrog and how we received it from God in 1219, but they pointed out it was more likely that we stole it. Informed us that the monarchy was the one that had existed for the longest time in 1000+ years and our current monarch was Magrethe. Denmark also had twice as many bicycles as cars. Then they told about Janus Friss who created Skype. They went to tell about what the country was known for in foreign countries. First there was Lego, which was an abbreviation of "Leg godt" which in English meant "Play well". Second was Hans Christian Andersen. Third was licorice. They also told us that Denmark was the least corrupt country in the world. After this presentation Lise got to present the gift that she wanted to give us, so that we would always think about these days.

Next was Georgia: The country of mountains (Which I noted was a beautiful country). The group decided to show three videos. The first one showed landscapes, and the second one showed food from the country, there was Puri (bread), Khacher Puri (Cheese bread), Kebabi (Kebab) and Khinkali (Dumplings). The third video with a Georgian folkdance was shown, where the bridge of peace appeared.

After the country of mountains, we were presented to the land of fire Azerbaijan, which had flame towers and 9-11 climate zones. It was welcoming and warm. A country where ancient traditions and contemporary culture blend together. Events that was held in the country included Gaballa and Jazz concerts, also formula 1 races. They were also proud of their promotion of multiculturalism. They also had the Soviet Union's collapse in their country.

Moldova showed a video that said welcome to Moldavia. They told about the past where the Ottoman Empire had taken over and later Soviet Union took over, so first in 27. August 1991 did they get

independence. From before 1940 Romania and Moldavia were one country. They said that the jet engine and aeroplanes were invented.

We also had Italy go up and presented their country.



Group photo from cultural night

16/10/17 Monday: Trips to social enterprises

We went out to visit social enterprises. First, we visited Hope Health Organization. We were welcomed and led into a conference room, where we were told about the organization, while being shown several slides with pictures and text. It was founded back in 2001 as a social entrepreneurship. Their work was to make sure people with disabilities could get employment and have tried to get work grants. This organization was a NGO and non-profit. Their work was social and consultation. They wanted to help people with disabilities obtain self-realization and help poor families at the same time, because they were the most socially vulnerable. In 2015 they did a lot of advocacy to get laws change, because there were medical and development problems. They did theatre lessons to boost the confidence and give them socialization skills. They also had activities like open doors and joint activities. 10 years ago, people with disabilities were afraid of the police, but this organization created a roundtable. The person doing the presentation told us about that they did music therapy, where they taught people with disabilities to play an instrument. The people with disabilities had very old parents. Other activities included a ceramic workshop, so they can get skills that they can use in the labour market. There was also workshops for men.



Photo of conference room at Hope & Health

She said, they wanted to change legislation, because authorities were not aware at all.

In September they held a free exchange with Romania.

They were planning to build a new kitchen, which they then could use to teach people with disabilities how to cook. They wanted to teach people with disabilities that they can help and show everyone that they don't need to be parasites for society. The 1st year was not easy. They did cooperation with the State.

She told us about a project that they did where the stage of development took a long time and they wanted to at least employ five people, where they made personalised soap. They made it competitive by making it ecological. For this project they cooperated with the chemistry institute and got 2 specialists to teach how to create the soap.

She told us that many people with disabilities ended on the street after boarding schools closed, so they did advocacy at the State in a joint advocacy strategy. She hoped for results next year. Every year they got 50 families, who could be stay here either for long-term/short-term. They try to inform doctors and employers.

The organization sadly couldn't cover all elderly and people with mental disabilities, while families (foster) were not prepared to pay for medicine. Poly clinics couldn't cover them either. Therefore, they tried to reform institutions, by improving conditions and staff.

A problem they had was that they couldn't do anything if someone got an epileptic attack, most doctors in the country doesn't either, because special departments were closed, which therefore meant that there was not enough psychiatrics.

Currently, they had lots of work with the development of the buildings, but they were still looking for funding, so they could finally cover the holes on the roofs. This location had no living spaces anymore, because in the past they did have bedrooms, but it was too expensive and gave them a huge responsibility, because in case one of the people with disabilities got ill, they couldn't do anything because they were not a medical institution.

We were told that it was a common issue that NGOs had trouble raising funding and the problem exists everywhere, but for it to get better authorities should pay attention. Another obstacle was that young people with bright minds don't want small salaries.

She told us that people should be the change you wanted to be. After that two beneficiaries Ana and Dima sang for us.



Photo in front of Hope & Health sign. People in it from left to right Hüseyin Koc, Tania, chairman of TEH Lise From and chairman of Hope & Health Liudmila

After that we had a break and I went out to eat lunch. We were in the city for approx. two hours before we went to the bus to drive to our next location.

At our next location we met Liliana Botnaru who told us about their Eco-village, where they didn't only promote ecology, but also taught youths in the local area, since it was founded in 2014. They had built the buildings out of straw-bales, reed and clay. She told us that it cleaned air and the energy efficiency gets better. She also said that the buildings foundation was created out of concrete. The buildings were cool in summer and is really isolated in the winter. Clay absorbed heat and radiated. She pointed out that the colour of building affected the indoor temperature e.g. yellow could be -3 Celsius and red would be 16 Celsius.

We went outside to look at where they grew vegetables, they tried to do intensive traditional gardening. They did plant combinations, because certain plants could keep away harmful insects. They also created an insect hotel, where they wanted ladybugs, and they had made holes where bees lived in. Also, there was wood for lizards. We asked how Lizards could live together with ladybugs and bees. She answered that they were respectful of diversity. We went up a hill and entered an empty building, where they planned to construct conference room, also outside they were going to build a greenhouse and build a dining room on the inside. A heated floor would be created and a terrace with bedrooms for people with disabilities. When we went further up, and she told us that they wanted to save up on water, because it was a resource that could run dry, so they had constructed bio toilets without water to not pollute the underground water. She did this because she didn't want her daughter to pay for water. Another thing they did was use human waste to use compost.

She told us about drive throughs, tea sales and promoting initiatives, which they also had with Romania, also they created sustainable initiatives.



Photo of the Eco village green building with its straw roof

After we had seen the various places we went to their small conference room. It began with this quote: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it is the only thing that ever has” by Margaret Mead. Valeria Svart Groger asked us about, if we knew about social enterprises. First was Radu who quickly told us about sustainable rehab. Second was Alexandrina told about the mindfulness center. Third was about the plastic backpacks. Fourth was about prevent racism, sexism and bullying. Fifth, was Kasper telling us about his online learning idea. Finally, it was about food storage.

She began telling us about Eco-village, which tried to do sustainable development of the regions. Back when they started in 1999 there was only environmental education and in 2013 it transformed into social entrepreneurship. They wanted to awareness and do ecology. They wanted to prevent people from overusing resources and show everyone that their work was not just a trend and that it was world changing. She gave us a quick rundown of various kinds of economies, there was restorative economy, collaborative economy, green and blue economy – The difference between green and blue was that big corporations that made pesticides were part of the Green economy, but not the Blue one. They created a social entrepreneurship, because they believed that big agriculture companies were exploiting people. Companies such as Monsanto, which created pesticides. She then told about the conference IarmarEco which they attended, she showed us pictures from it, where a man named Stefan designed the stalls that they had honey and he also designed the logo. For this conference there was 120 applicants to this local, social and ecological conference. Here they tried to build awareness and community. They brought sustainable food that was raw vegan and for sauce they used nut sauce. Also, they had workshops for children.

They had created a hub for learning about sustainable development of seminars about Eco-tourism, Community development of jobs for villagers. They hope to be able to finish this at the end of November

2017. After this she talked about the expenses of the whole place, which was 300,000 euro in total, however this cost was estimated by including the cost of volunteers if they had to pay them. 30% was used on materials. 13-15 thousand dollars in crowd funding and money was used on PR campaign. They got this money from crowd investment loans and 30 different individuals, who gave 1000 euro each. They also got income by renting space, educational events.

Valeria told us about the tight budget. Someone asked her if anyone ate meat, but she answered that it was most vegetarians who worked there, and they made sure the place was alcohol free. They had grapes, but they made grape juice instead.

17/10/2017 Tuesday: Baby People

On the last day before the day we had to go home, we were going to hear a presentation by a NGO called Baby people which worked with marginalized people in the UK.

Morten gave a quick summary of what had happened through this week. He asked what we would do when we came home. Radu answered that he would try to start the project he made this week.

Then our expectations, contributions and fears were read up. Then we had to draw a backpack, where we should write what we would take with us home: I would take home experiences, memories and knowledge about social enterprises. Now was time for the secret friend reveal. Then we wrote positive qualities about the people on their back.

There was talk about internalization in future tense. We should remember that we compete with everyone

We were told about the CosMe program, which is a special program, where Moldova pays for service and they receive entrepreneurs. Then we were told about policy implementation and how to help build bridges between decision makers and youths, but it was that they were not a consulting company. They had gone through a certification system with UN. They have worked with sustainable energy and combined youths. Also used in sustainable development to promote entrepreneurship among people.

Asser told us that there has been a host of people around Europe. Also, they wanted to open an office in Romania, but they were busy with Norway.

We were told about Erasmus+ for young people, which works with training and supports start-ups. Tommy that had visited us today told us that he had a clever idea, when he was 19 years old, which was to give book wrapping with advertisement. He told us that someone should throw out the fear of failing, even if you didn't know any entrepreneurs like he did. The person that created the company that he worked for currently was his old boss, who wanted him to join, but one of his colleagues told him that when he sees that it's not working you can become a teacher. Luckily for him his old boss Christian had that entrepreneur spirit, which made sure that the company could be created. So he kind of shadowed a successful business person.

Morten told us that he was proud that we made a business plan and that he wanted us to fill in an Online application when we got home, which would take approx. 15 minutes.

Baby people visited us, this organization was a music and arts organization, which had existed for 16 years. One of the people they helped was a person with drug addiction who got through his Master degree. The guy who created it was with Jamie Joseph in Los Angeles.

The organization had 3000 young people per year, but 40-50 youths at a time. The people who helped in the organization were DJs, rappers and graffiti artists. 6-7 sessions happened at a time. The youngest people they have helped were 6-7 years old and the oldest was 19 years old, but they mostly helped 13-16 years old. They used Urban Arts and Hip-Hop culture to help young people. They used Hip-Hop because it

was the voice of rebellion, which told everyone Fuck You. Also, they were not social pedagogues. He told us that they didn't see themselves as an authority, but instead that everyone was a student and teacher. He pointed out that it didn't work to do things traditionally, because the youths wouldn't see the value. Staff had been to University, and some people had been in prison and had real life experience. They used empathy and understanding, because many of them working with the youths might have gone through the same experiences.

The whole organization began because Ruckus a MC wanted to teach children, so they went to a school and worked with a class of violent girls. "We brought DJs, break-dancers and graffiti artists," he said. They used 20% of their finance on management fee and 80% for artist fees. They didn't have anything to lose if they tried. There was a Social NGO and they knew to represent children. The youth offending founded them. Our presenter didn't know how to fill in an application, but would rather go to business. Our presenter was still on welfare and half a million turnovers. They had 20-30 clients, which was on a revolving door. They even began to help people with disabilities. Their biggest client was still the first one they ever got. Their organization had no set business plan and their working environment was very loose, so they were quite open in how they work. Their organization had become one of the biggest organization in the UK. Our presenter believed that it was worthwhile to help people.

Baby J our presenter said that he had changed his name legally, he did joke about it, because he was already a Grandfather.

He knew Baby People could benefit the community. He told us that young people could many times visit for free for specific sessions. He said that they sometimes were better than the commercial business.

He talked about plans in the future, which was that they wanted to do programming, specifically they wanted to teach coding, but they had to make sure that the youths had passion for it.

When he received his first advance, he was glad, but he pointed out that he did not do it to get paid. He estimated that 90% of the people in the organization were there, because they believed in what the organization stood for.

He was asked if they did traditional art. He answered that they did not because none of the youths were interested in it and there were already other organizations that did this.

Daniel said that there a lot of travel claims that they wanted us to send, so they could show the price of the project and had proof that people had been there, so we had to send it with envelope to Aalborg. The people who had driven should send a photo copy the car registration. We should do this quickly, because they would go to do new projects. When we should make a form, then we had to computer write it not hand-write it. We should send it together if we lived close to each other. In one group there should just be one bank account.