



## OUR STORY

### Romanian team/GHEORGHE TITEICA SCHOOL

Once upon a time there was a school having the name of a great Romanian mathematician, Gheorghe Titeica (1873-1939) and so, having a direct connection with the beauty of Science (I mean, the modern science, based on Mathematics as well).

Everyday students at this school, studied Science and considered it very important in our lives because it really means a part of our everyday life, generating solutions for living, helping us to answer the mysteries of the Universe, discover new ideas& new evidence, understand the natural world. We liked Science, but we didn't like the fact that it was taught in a traditional way...

But one day something changed ...and we found out we could become the protagonists in the Eco-Systems of Open Science Schooling PROJECT. We found out we could become kind of Heroes in our School Life story and be seen as real Agents of Change in our community. 'WOW, it's great, this project!' We will learn Science better and in totally other way'- we all agreed. Moreover, we were very motivated when our teachers of Maths, English, Physics and Biology let us know more about it and we felt very enthusiastic regarding the mission activities and the ecosystem partnerships to create. NEXT, the most enthusiastic of us expressed their wish to involve in this project and here we are! We made this wonderful team!

#### #MISSION 1/CONNECTED TO NATURE



The first idea of this mission was born taking into account the pandemic context.

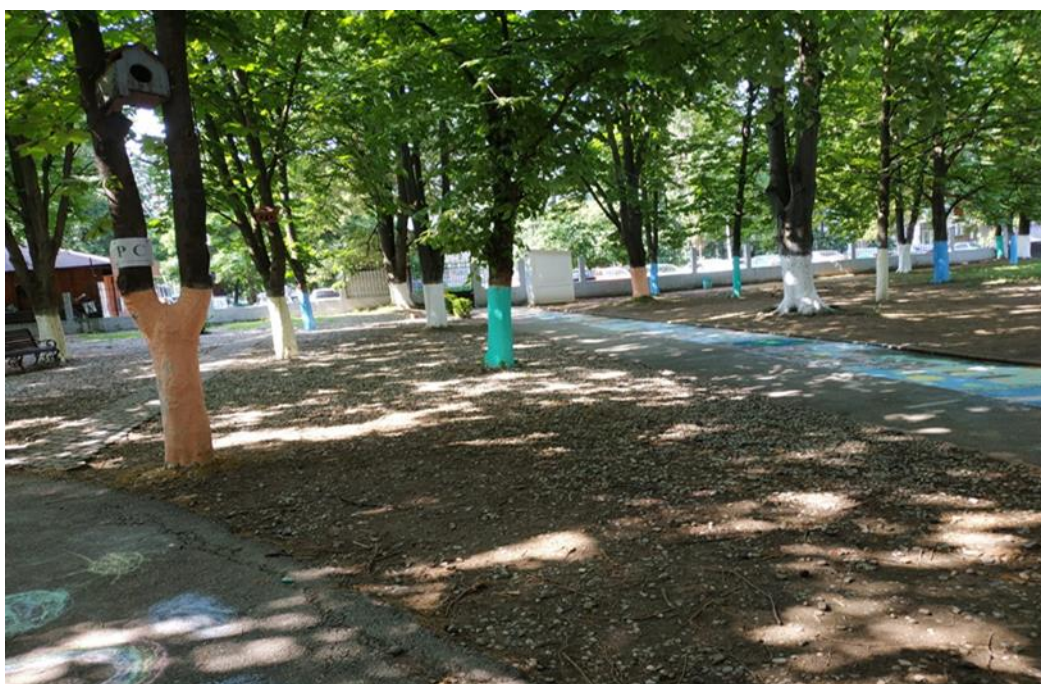
As you know, our socio-emotional abilities were affected; we stayed isolated, some of our schoolmates felt anxious and a bit insecure when we came back to school. We also brought a bit the pandemic stress into the classroom. Hanging out with friends again and re-entering school was for some of us, a bit difficult. It was the loss of normal day -to -day routine, the loss of social relationships, the loss of anniversary events, the loss of learning and the fear of getting poor school results. Definitely, we needed a transformation of our school life. We needed motivation and some joy of learning as the context wasn't such a happy one.

The second reason was that it was healthier and much better to find a solution to transform a bad situation, created by the pandemic, into an opportunity! We totally agreed that **studying OUTDOOR, connected to NATURE, could** be a SOLUTION to make us study better, feel more receptive to each other and more engaged in school activities.

We started with our English classes. Our teacher of English involved us, in a national project contest:” **SCHOOL in NATURE**”

We became partners of’ ‘Life Education for all’ Association who initiated this campaign for outdoor education at national level.

Our partner encouraged us to create an **OUTDOOR classroom** with our possibilities and we were able to do it because we are so lucky to have a generous school garden and also a large playground. This partner let us know that they will find some entrepreneurs/sponsors who sustain education, in order to support us and offer us the possibility to creating a real outdoor educational space with **BEANbags/relaxing armchairs and a mobile whiteboard in our generous school garden *until May 2022.***

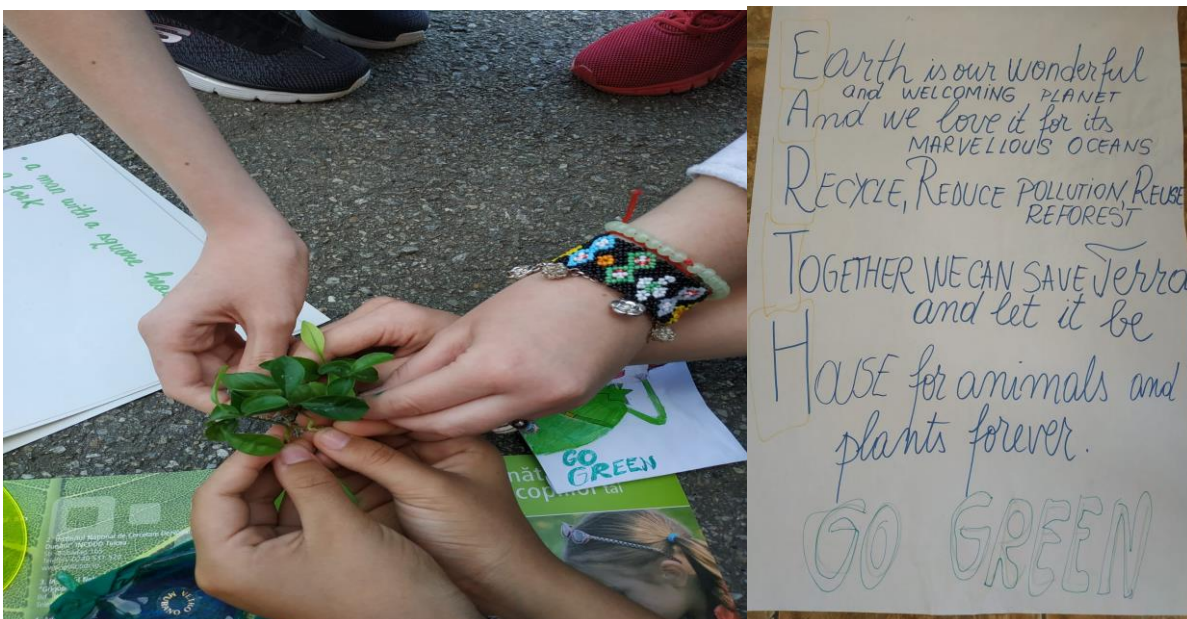


We are so lucky to have this wonderful garden!

And also lucky to have a large playground ,as well!

And , at once we could demonstrate that classes could have NO walls!

That outdoor lessons could be much more captivating,offering students maximum freedom of expression.



We have all been inspired by nature and supported learning through various means – observation, exploration, music, theatre techniques,

mindfulness, painting, laboratory experiments, a little bit of gardening – to facilitate our personal development in the spirit of harmony and responsibility for life, each in its own role.

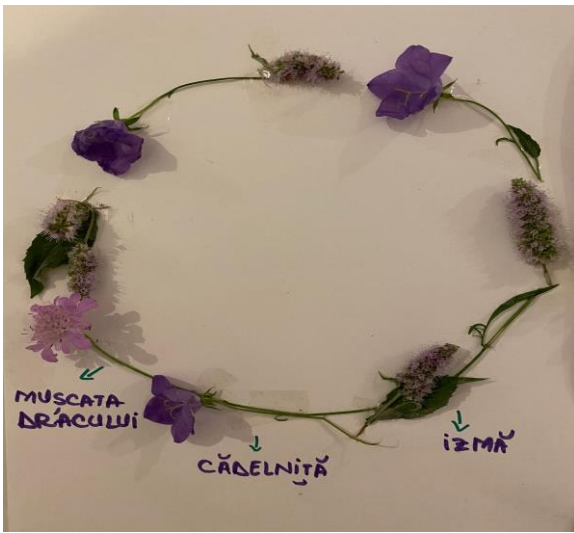


**Experiential learning classes are unforgettable!**

**There isn't any other easy way to help us in discovering education for sustainable development and what it can do for our lives !**

**We created even a slogan: NATURE EDUCATION IS SO GOOD FOR ALL**

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The second partner was the non-governmental YOUTH COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION /Association COMUNITATI PENTRU TINERET/ based in Craiova whose aim is to promote community development through lifelong learning educational programmes.

**WE worked together with Exchange Volunteer Service volunteers from Spain, Sweden, Albania, Argentina during our English classes or after classes. They came to our school or we had workshops and activities in the Romanescu PARK, after classes. The games and discussions about ENVIRONMENT stimulated us to appreciate the harmony of Nature and become more protective to our Earth.**



**As methods of teaching and learning we used role play and IMPROVISATION, debates, different phone applications (KAHOOT).**

**For evaluation we used PROJECT BASED LEARNING. We split in groups and worked together. These methods developed our EMPATHY, ATTENTION, SPONTANEITY, CREATIVITY. The non-formal games, as well, created a lovely atmosphere, a stimulative working environment.**





Our second slogan:

## **ENVIRONMENT. EDUCATION. FUTURE.**

In order to expand our mission and grow the network of partners we decided to be part of the experiential learning programmes that READY FOR LIFE team (teachers, social & cultural animators) offer students, during the summer holiday. Some of us, participated in READY FOR LIFE CAMP, between 22-29 July, in BRAN. Our purpose was to seek new ways to learn and develop our life abilities, to continue our nonformal activities, our learning by playing and continue to explore NATURE and learn more about natural protected areas.

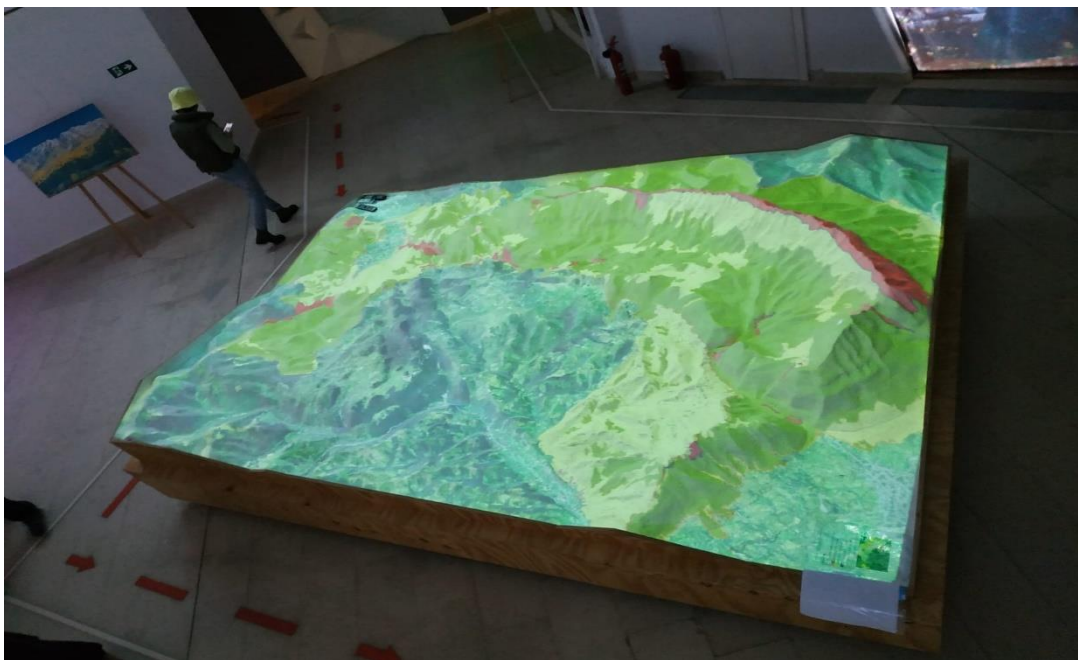
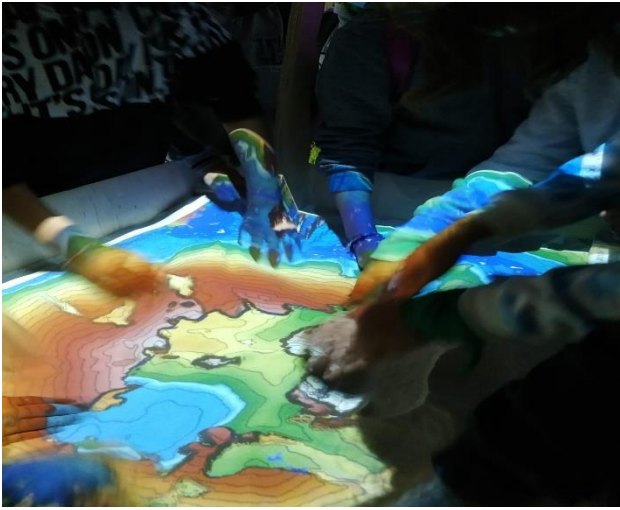


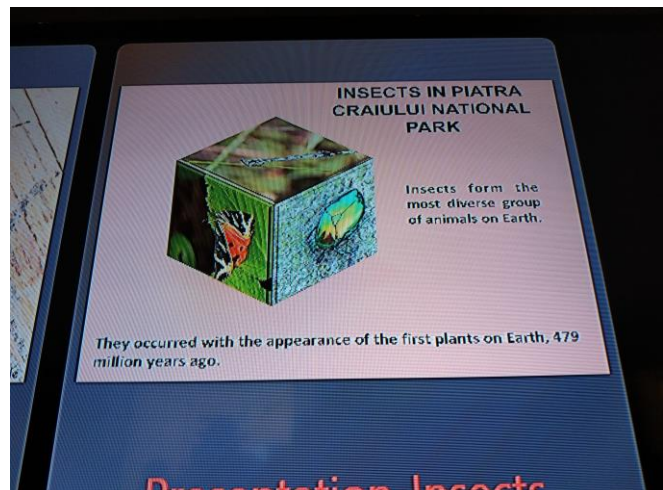
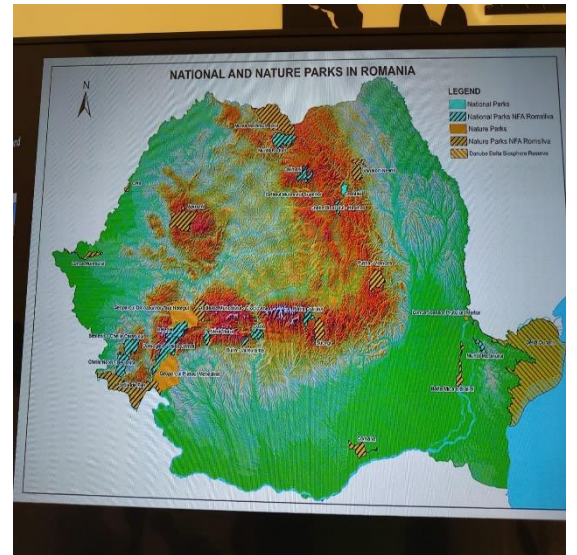
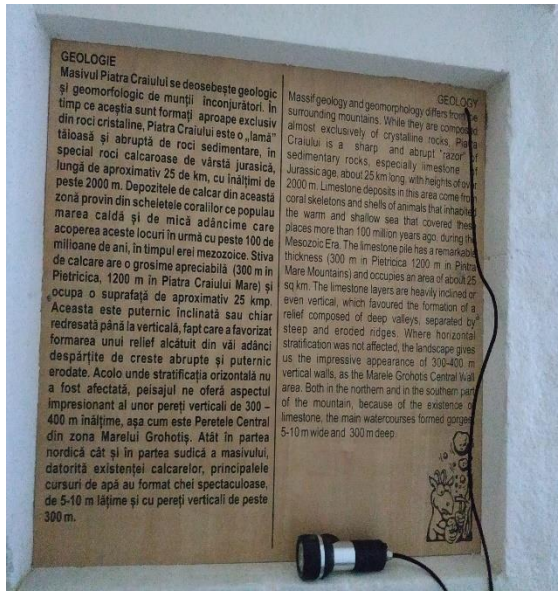


We discovered a magnificent CARPATHIAN natural protected area (one of the 30 National and Nature PARKS in ROMANIA) and visited the interactive museum NATIONAL PARK PIATRA CRAIULUI. The activities developed in the framework of the cooperation with this museum generated enthusiasm, were nice and motivating for us. We acquired information and abilities in conditions of maximum freedom of expression, playing games and making experiments. The joy to discover new things and to develop was the highlight of these non-formal education activities, which complemented our theoretical knowledge from school.











This interactive museum inspired us in valuing more biodiversity, in understanding better the natural and cultural heritage of our mountains and in being proud to live in such a beautiful country in harmony with nature.

**End ever since then**, we have discovered that our first mission has been very challenging and we have learnt that the force of being **TOGETHER** really matters!

These partnerships, these eco-systems, were really inspiring and we really felt like **ACTIVE** participants rather than passive actors in our personal development /learning process.

**WE** appreciated the most the **BOND** established between us , our teachers and the volunteers which really supported us to be much more motivated in our work. We realized wonderful **PROJECTS** related to Nature, Environment, Sustainable Green Future and the other **TOPICS** .

We can say that our **Mission 1** changed ourselves a lot, brought us better **COLLABORATION**, better **COMMUNICATION** and coordination in our groups, more **CREATIVITY** and developed our **Critical THINKING** .

The **HEROES** of this **STORY** came to the



**OUTDOOR** education really matters!

**HAVING** other **PARTNERS** and collaborating matters!

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We have decided to continue this mission that has helped us

- experience the endless ways to enjoy **NATURE** and live healthier
- avoid too much exposure on screens and enjoy wellbeing and togetherness

- develop our love for the Environment and made us more aware for Nature conservation

At the end of our story another story starts to unfold.

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