



TATU

THROUGH ACTING TO UNDERSTANDING

TATU is the acronym of a Comenius multilateral partnership project entitled "Trough Acting to Understanding"- teaching English through drama, which involves students from the IXth and Xth grades from "Infoel" Technical College in Bistrita.

This Project started from the premises that role playing is a type of activity that allows communication and interaction on stage and not only, the final product being the representation of a play, written by the students themselves, which should reflect all the information acquired over the two years of the project(2010-2012) about the partner countries. The project involves 70 students and 12 teachers who will exchange views, will cooperate in the planning and the carrying out of various steps and will share their experiences in the working groups during the mobility but also on the platform of the program "Comenius-TATU".

The international involvement in this project requires also editing a brief newsletter, dedicated to the students, reflected by a short stopover in each country involved, so that we could find all the details, curiosities, legends, traditions, etc.

Germany

Portugal

France

Turkey

The Czech Republic

Romania

The Czech Republic

Christmas represents for everyone the opportunity to spend more time in an intimate setting with your beloved ones, the closest friends and family.



We tried to reproduce what represents the best celebrations of Christmas in The Czech Republic.

The attitude of the students from 10 G involved in this project was great. They brought a lot of information about Christmas in this country. They came with special recipes, but what is most important they made all the food themselves. As seen in the pictures below they really enjoyed what they had to do, they worked with passion and I may tell they have skills in making a presentation. They looked for every detail to be perfect. I was really impressed by their attitude. They started with a short presentation of the traditions: a student made the presentation in Romanian, while his colleague spoke in English. The Christmas celebration begins with the visit of St. Nicholas on December 6th and ends with the visit of the Three Kings.

In The Czech Republic, St. Nicholas is called Svaty Mikalas and is believed to have come to earth down from heaven on a golden rope along with his companions: an angel and a whip-carrying devil. St Nicholas visits and brings gifts to good children, and for those children who are bad, the devil is said to come with switches. It is said, according to tradition, that a girl can tell her future by putting a cherry twig in water on December 4th. If the twig blossoms before Christmas Eve, the girl will marry sometime during the year. Christmas is a quiet and peaceful religious moment. At midnight, most families go to Holy Mass or Pasterka as it is known. On Christmas Day, the churches are filled with evergreens and Christmas Trees. Celebrations go on for three days.



Czechs eat Makruska Tart, Special Roulade with chocolate cream, A Special Salad with tuna, called Spring Salad, Lemon Cake with raisins, The traditional Cheese Pie, Sausages and the bread named Vanocka. All this great food is associated with apple juice. We ended our presentation with a carol : ***Dy Buh stesti*** which means ***God blesses you.***

France



The students from 10 D tried to show all the French traditions of the Christmas period.

They exposed different kinds of food on the table such as: *la dinde au marrons* (turkey with chestnuts), roast duck, *la bouche de Noel* (cake in the form of logs) which represents the log that the French

burn in order to heat during the Christmas night, traditional salad and other things.

The decoration representing France was very lively, combining white, green and red. Statues representing God's birth were exposed highlighting the superb crib handmade by students.

In the presentation of this country were listed the ingredients that had been used in food and other traditions and events that happen in that holy night like dinner before going to bed, Virgin Mary's visit, the moment when the children clean their shoes to receive gifts from Santa Claus, etc..

The representatives of France tried to raise awareness through a carol sung in French. Young people wanted to be more representative dressed in the colors of the French flag and ribbons with the same nuances in the chest. Their tree was also "a flag of France."

The Spirit of Christmas enveloped everyone present at this event and gave everyone a good feeling, making them singing in the end: *Mon, beau sapin.*

Germany

A group of students from the 10F represented Germany.

They prepared the country's culinary specialties: smoked fish, rice milk, dried sausages, cake with marzipan.

They wore German traditional costumes and they put traditional ornaments on the tree, singing carols in German.



The most important moment of Christmas is decorating the tree (they are the founders of this tradition), and only the adults participate, the presence of the children not being allowed during this activity.



They are called only in the end, when the tree is decorated, to take their gifts under the tree.

As for all Christians, Christmas is an occasion for the Germans for family reunions.

Through these extra-curricular activities, students got in touch with a different culture than the one in they were born in and learned to appreciate the features which distinguish European Union Nation

Portugal

The XC chose to present the customs and the traditions in Portugal. Their performance consisted in the preparation of some Portuguese meals, the presentation of Portugal's traditional costume and the interpretation of a Portuguese carol.



Like all the other classes engaged in this project, the XI C had a little corner in which they rendered the specific elements of Christmas in Portugal.

They decorated a small tree with balls and sticks; they brought various Christmas ornaments depicting the birth of Jesus and set the meals with the oranges on a neatly arranged table so that the guests could taste them.

The basic ingredients were fish, lemon, carrots, and for desert they had pancakes with sweet cheese and raisins; another traditional product was Rabanadas, which was prepared with a lot of milk, cinnamon and raisins. Some of the students in the class, two girls and two boys, wore traditional costumes and presented the components to the guests.

The program ended with an artistic interpretation of a carol in Portuguese. According to the Portuguese tradition, which says that every person present at the opening of the gifts should receive an orange, "the sacred fruit of Christmas" in Portugal, they gave an orange to every person present to their performance.



Turkey

Our students were very curious to discover how Christmas is celebrated in Turkey. They were really surprised when they discovered that in Turkey they do not celebrate Christmas, but they do celebrate New Year as they are Muslim.

Students have competed in preparing Turkish cuisine specialties such as:

- Baklava
- Pound cake
- Turkish delight
- Halva
- pilau
- coffee (in Turkey it is made on hot sand)
- Black tea
- hookah (Turkish pipe).



Being very excited by the project, some students prepared a traditional Turkish dance.

ROMANIA



The students from IX D along with the students from IX I focused on highlighting the most beautiful aspects of the Romanian traditions.

CHRISTMAS IN ROMANIA - started from the simple idea that Romanian people have had "wealth", "culture", "tradition", "habits" since ancient times. Students highlighted ROMANIAN COSTUMES - simple clothes which are 100 years old and they drew our attention on the "wealth" and the table loaded with food, specific to the Christmas holidays (all bio): "sarmale cu



pasat" (the rice is replaced with coarsely ground maize, rice is now used to force-meat rolls), products based on pork: black pudding, sausages, bacon and onion, pound cakes with nuts, apple pie, polenta.

The decoration of the stall presenting Christmas in Romania was specific: tablecloths made in "Chelin" - bright colors, floral, which pointed out the power, peoples wealth, the happiness and the health of this nation; we

can say that the walls were draped with "chingeaua" - towels; towels and floral clay plates can also be observed in the presentation of the meals.



Traditional habits were presented by the students. The dancing and the presentation of the "goat", and the "bear" were authentic, they were not altered by the influence of the modern world; they transmitted the message in accordance with our traditions since ancient times and this message is accepted, understood, perceived around the world on this event.



All the culinary preparations were tasted, appreciated by all the students and the school staff and the guests; the beauty of the arrangement attracted the attention of all; the carols "The three pastors", "Domn domn sa-naltam", "Plugusorul", the "Bear" and the "Goat" gained the public's attention at that moment; the joy was installed, the good will, the wealth, the peace and the beauty of the costumes demonstrated we do know how to make ourselves understood. We are rich people, with strong traditions and customs, what really matters is not to forget our ancestors. This way we thank those who listened to us and the headmaster for the opportunity given to us to show our beautiful existence.

This project is meant to improve the language teaching and assessment methods in our school through the use of modern cross-curricular methods, dealing with issues related to teaching English, new techniques of using the computer; among the secondary aims of the project we can mention:

- encouraging talented students in computer science, fine arts, journalism;
- acting and directing in English;
- promoting intercultural education and common European values (such as tolerance, respect for other cultures, cultural and linguistic diversity);
- using cross-curricular approaches;
- improving communication skills not only in English but also in the languages of the partner-countries.

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