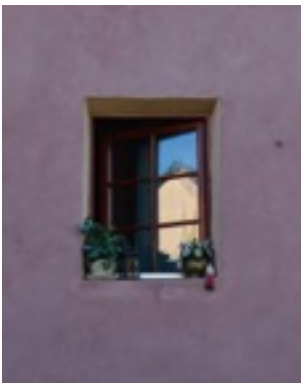




January Newsletter

Discovering Romania.



Sighisoara and its colored houses.



The Peles Castle, Siania.

After going home for the Christmas break, we came back in Romania with more energy (and full stomachs). We knew we would be there for only 2 more months and that time would fly. Therefore we decided to enjoy every moment we'd spend with each other and took all our days off left to organise a one-week trip in Romania to discover more about the country we've been living in for 3 months already.

But first, paper work.

We only left the third week of January, leaving us the time to do all the paperwork we had to do the two first weeks. The first week, we went to the university daily in order to have a work environment so we could be more efficient with the paperwork. We thus worked on all the reports for the schools concerning all the activities we've done so far. It was good to see afterwards all the work we've done with the youth and to have a step back from our work here. We realized that from nothing, we created something that would last, at least in the administrative shelves of the schools.



Writing in the snow in Brasov.



With our Argentinian friend met at Brand Castle.



Brasov by night.

Discovering Romania.

After 2 weeks of intensive paper work, we took a week with our days off to go on a semi-surprise trip. Only the two of us organized it, the others wanted to have the surprise day by day. We thus did the Transylvania Triangle: Brasov-Sibiu-Sighisoara with a stop at Sinaia and Bran to visit 2 unavoidable castles.

It was amazing. We were all amazed by what Romania gave us to see: colors out of sight, mountains surrounding towns. As we traveled by train, so we were able to see the changing landscape. From the snowing forests to the yellow fields, we enjoyed every moment we spent admiring nature. The cities surprised us as well. As we only spent our weeks on the east coast, near the black sea (and some week-ends in Bucharest), we didn't expect to be blind by the colors Transylvania offered us. Hence our thought: as Constanta enjoys from the maritime activity and the growing population during summer, why is the city left abandoned? We clearly saw the difference as we ended our trip and thought how unfortunate it was to leave a city full of charisma.

What's next?

Before going on a trip, we prepared to next activities for the schools and we decided to work on the stereotypes. As Erasmus people living together 24/7, we experienced what it was to demolish stereotypes and clichés one can have over a culture, a country, or even a person. We wanted the youngsters to experience it as well and exchange with them around open our mind beyond what we think.