

## Stories of Departure

The phenomenon of migration has deep roots in the history of our school as our institution was initially founded for the German communities who moved to Transylvania (Romania) some hundreds of years ago. Being aware of the given historical facts, our students' challenge is to know and understand the *present* movements of people in Europe as Romania is rather isolated from the large immigration aspects which impact Europe, including the refugee crisis. By joining an ERASMUS+ project on the role of education in promoting social integration and understanding we had to deal with the aspect of current immigrants and refugees in our area.

Consequently we made up a group of students and teachers who started to develop a campaign of rising awareness in our school community (1500 students) about this European issue with the intention to inform as well as to develop empathy and understanding. "*Why do people migrate?*" was at the core of our preoccupations.

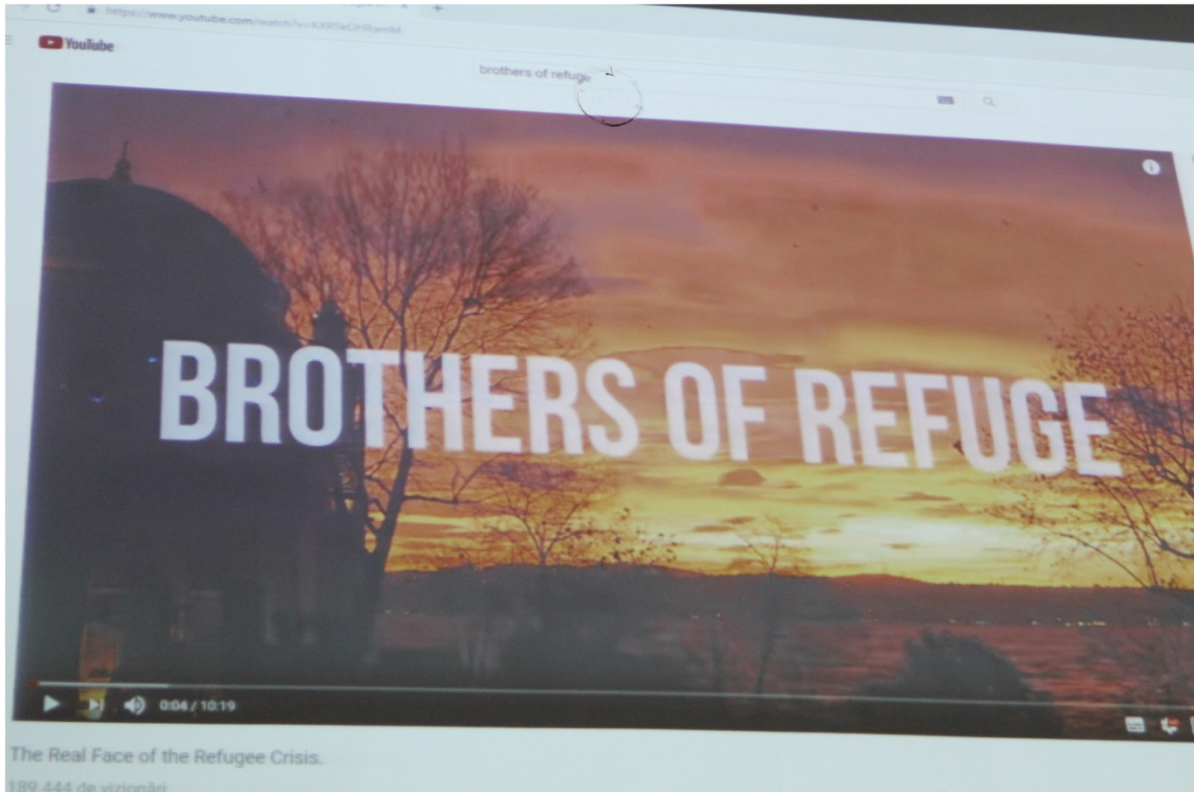
So we contacted the local Migrant Integration Center and invited 2 Syrian refugees to come and share their experience with our students. They told us their story of coming to Romania. Our 16-year olds prepared some questions and made a short interview with the 2 guests. It was an unforgettable experience for our teenagers as the opportunity to speak with foreign people about their choice to move and live in Romania is quite rare here.

Another activity we developed in March 2019 was a Joint Conference on the topic of Migration with the "Children's Palace" from Bacau (a city in the N. of Romania). Our guests participated at the conference with their Erasmus partners from different European countries.

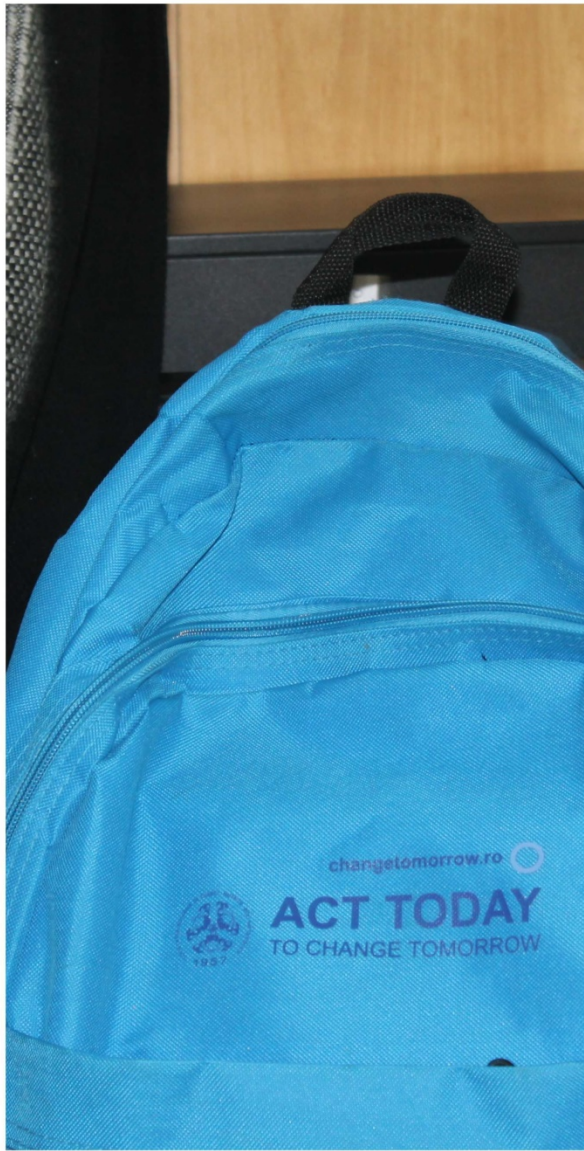
The Conference was organised in our school and its main objective was to share experiences and acknowledge differences in culture and attitudes in mixed communities. While the first part of the meeting was rather theoretical giving brief information about the rights of war refugees, the second part consisted in the presentation of some German folk dances, as a proof of maintenance of German culture and traditions in the city of Brasov.

Which were the lessons our students have learnt out of the activities we developed?

That most of the people who leave their country to settle down somewhere else have a sad story behind their choice and that by integrating them in our communities we not only enrich our cultural background but we also broaden our individual perspective of life.



Interviewing the 2 Syrian refugees in the meeting at our school



Discussions and interview with the 2 Syrian refugees.





Joint Conference on migration and cultural diversity with the *Children's Palace* - Bacau

- Presentation of war refugee's rights
- Traditional German folk dances- a particularity of our school and the German community in Romania



## Joint Conference on migration and cultural diversity

- final speech of the 2 school principals





Erasmus+



JOHANNES HONTERUS Highschool invites you

# ERASMUS+ JOINT CONFERENCE

A co-op meeting between Children's Palace Bacau and  
Johannes Honterus Highschool Brasov, about erasmus+practice  
**MARCH 13, 2019, 2PM - 5PM, FESTIVE HALL**

## Projects

Role of Education in Protecting Children and Women in Conflict

Ref. nr. 2018-CZ01-KA229-048017\_2

European patterns: Migration of birds and people Ref.mr. 2018-I-DE03-KA229-047476\_6