

When you become sad - look into your passport at the Romanian visa, remember what a great time you had here.



«STAS» - (Solidarity Through Arts and Sports) - Training Course, was held from 14 to 22 September in the beautiful mountain town in Romania. Youth from seven countries gathered in Slanic Moldova to gain experience from each other and to bring it home to share it with active people.

We asked participants how they find out about this project and what was their first impression. Lots of them find out about it from their friends, sending organizations and facebook. Their first impressions were good and even if they had some fear it did not last long. For example participant from Turkey said: *Before I actually met other participants I feared that my English is bad and they will not understand me. But when I met them I felt relaxed because people here are nice, they speak slowly and I understand them and can talk with them.*



Every day was intense. Girls and boys worked on their own projects, took active part in various games, interacted with each other and discussed various topics. Team play helped us to know each other better. Each time 20 participants, every day divided into different groups, created something interesting together.



All of participants learned lot of things that are useful for creating their own projects also they appreciate that they could speak English and improve it. Participant from Slovakia said: *I learned lot of things that will help me if not to create my own project than at least participate in some other projects, and this project also helped me to speak English better.*



One evening was devoted to the presentation of our native countries. Slovakian, Turkish, Moldovan, Romanian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Georgian participants presented their country in the best possible light, and then everyone enjoyed traditional dishes and many of us danced and sang. The opinion of participant from Belarus was: *This evening showed such things which you couldn't find on Google or Wikipedia. You really could feel spirit of the country. I am happy that I tried to dance national dances. It is great, I like it very much. And I think it is a good idea to present your national food, because it really shows your lifestyle, your national habits, and character.*



If people ever have an opportunity to gain experience, they should use it to its fullest. We were given the chance and tried to learn from it as much as possible. We gathered only for one week, but we all became one big family. We got the chance to practice and improve our English, while meeting amazing people and making friends. All participants hope to keep in touch after the project and they will be glad to host any of participants that visit their country.



We gave a few questions to the trainers Mauro and Razvan. They got the idea about making this project in February, but the project got approved only in May. Then they started to prepare at the beginning of August. They worked together through Skype, and met here in Romania one day before the project started. But the schedule was adapted according to the needs of participants.

The trainers think that this project was successful and it really helped participants to gain knowledge and experience. The participants were very active and creative, they hope that the participants will be successful in their future and make a lot of their own projects.

And what about trainers' future projects? Mauro writes a project about games and media and if it gets accepted it will happen in June 2014 in Romania. Razvan plans to go to Central America and travel around it for one month.

It was a great time full of entertainment, learning and relax. Even though we still have some time to be together, our suitcases are already packed for our departure and we already start to miss each other. We will take home not only diplomas but a lot of good memories and photos.



STAS
Slanic Moldova, 2013

