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GREEN BRIDGES ACTIVITIES (March – October 2020) November 5th - online meeting

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ASIE's activities in Green Bridges project, following 3 clusters of time

- I. Activities during the spring lockdown (Middle March 2020 - End of May 2020): Bridging the inner&outer worlds - various remote activities from home
- II. Activities during summer (June - August 2020): Virtual Journeys, Real Journeys, Community activities with joint participation of ASIE members and volunteers
- III. Activities during autumn (September - End of October 2020): Outdoor workshops, Networking



I. Bridging the inner&outer worlds

MARCH – JUNE

1. Romania and Iasi in pandemic times - short overview

<https://greenbridgesproject.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/romania-and-iasi-in-pandemic-times-short-overview.pdf>

2. “THE WORLD FROM MY WINDOW”

- ❑ The activity implied **collecting photos** from different participants via email or social media as a way to work remotely with people during the lockdown. ASIE members invited people to share what they see from their window 24 hours/day. They sent photos of their homes or from their jobs in order to express somehow their feelings during the quarantine, thus the photos being the voice of what they felt. This activity helped many to have a task or a goal in many quiet and monotonous days. It made them feel useful or feel connecting with other people in the same situation as them.
- ❑ More than **50 people** responded to our request and participated. Including some of the project partners! But the most special photos we received from 2 nurses working at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in very long shifts of 24 hours. They didn't send photos from their windows, but they shared photos from their place of work in their COVID proof uniform and their photos had a high impact on the others.
- ❑ ASIE created photo collages from all received photos and shared them among participants together with some of their thoughts and comments. This activity linked the participants more and raised more interest in the Green Bridges project.

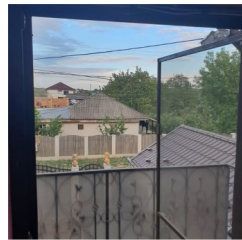
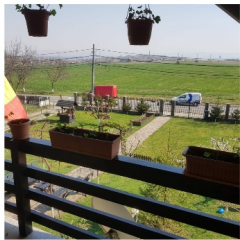
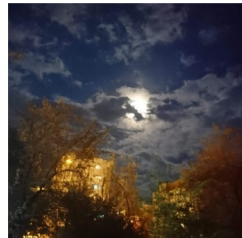
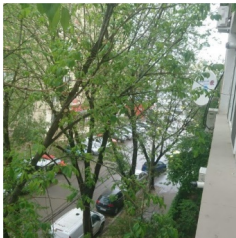
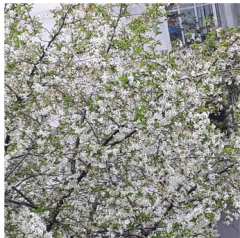
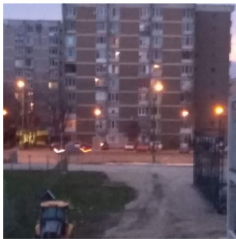
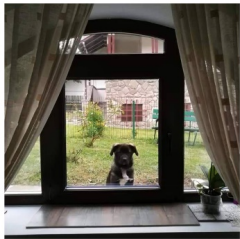
"THE WORLD FROM MY WINDOW"



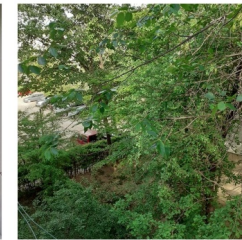
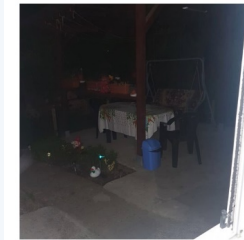
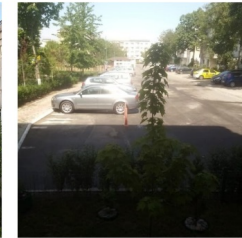
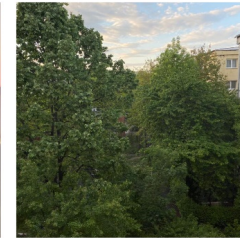
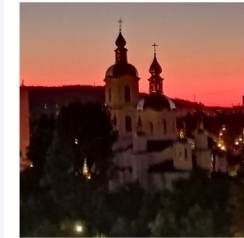
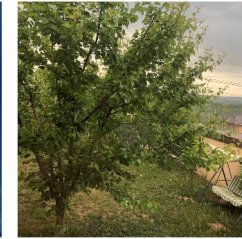
- "I saw the piece of nature at my window with different eyes"
- "Nature revived in front of my window"
- "Being a busy wife and housekeeper, my life did not change much"
- "I began to drink my coffee in front of my window"
- "I howled to the moon and back during the long nights of spring"



“THE WORLD FROM MY WINDOW”



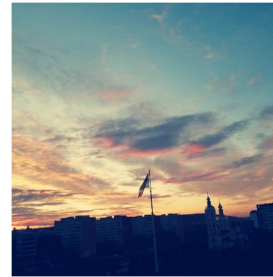
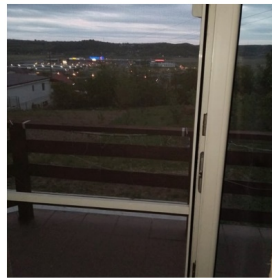
- “The trains, which annoyed me before, gave me the impression of action”
- “I heard the little sparrows quarrelling...I could swear I have never heard them before”
- “The bars from my window were emphasizing more my imprisonment”
- “The sunset kept me more in front of the window as I had nothing to do”



“THE WORLD FROM MY WINDOW”



- “The window gave the oxygen I needed not to go mad”
- “I felt free only when I was opening the window”
- “I envied the birds for their freedom”
- “Seeing the same blocks all day long increased my despair more and more”



3. COVID 19-LED TESTIMONIALS

- Activity: A.S.I.E invited its members and volunteers to put on paper their thoughts on the pandemic and quarantine mood and send them by email or social media until the end of May.
- As a result, A.S.I.E received more than **30 testimonials** in written that underlined the impact of the virus and quarantine on people's lives.
- Outcome: A.S.I.E gathered all the letters, saved and tagged them and created a virtual exhibition (collage) of some of the testimonials with quotes from most of them. Later, on June 16th, 2020 the participants to this activity were invited to an online Zoom Workshop of mutual support where these collages were presented and discussed in full. The activity created a bridge between the temporary worlds of the participants and provided "virtual" social support thus being valuable for the continuous dissemination of the project as well.

ZOOM Online Meeting "Testimonials" Workshop– June 16th. 2020

Zoom Meeting 40-Minutes

View

Participants (16)

Find a participant

Tatiana-Petruta Bejan (Host, me)

AM Ana Maria (Guest)

A Alis (Guest)

Irimia Pusa (Guest)

IS IULIA SAVA (Guest)

Marinela Ciobanu (Guest)

D danacojocar (Guest)

IM Isari Maria (Guest)

C Covuliuc (Guest)

CE Covuliuc Ecaterina (Guest)

DS Dinu Șerban Elena (Guest)

GA Galaxy A30s (Guest)

I- i... (Guest) [Ask to Unmute](#) [More >](#)

MC MALAUTI CONSTANTIN (Guest)

Săcăleanu Naomi Denisa (Guest)

DA Dima Ana Marina (Guest)

Mute Stop Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Record Closed Caption Breakout Rooms Reactions End

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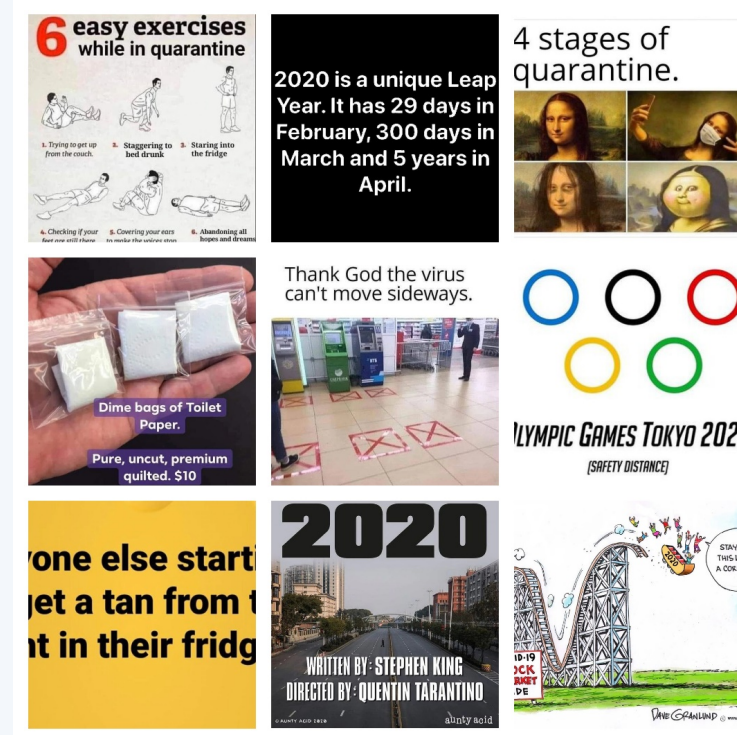
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3. COVID-19 related MEMES

“A good laugh is sunshine in the house”. — William Thackeray

- Activity: As a remote activity, A.S.I.E's members have collected since March 2020 many memes related to the pandemic. As a therapy for coping with the difficult times, people spread during quarantine (quicker than COVID) thousands of memes that made their beloved ones, their acquaintances or friends to laugh. Memes were the first posts some people learnt for the first time they used internet; older members of our association have developed new IC&T skills just to send or receive this form of communication during harsh times.
- Outcome: A.S.I.E has created photo collages with the memes in Romanian, English or any other language they received through social media or internet. They have various topics, from hygiene, to activities during quarantine, different pieces of advice, online education and plans for the uncertain future. All the collages bring a smile on people's face & give them hope.



3. COVID-19 related MEMES

“Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand.” — Mark Twain

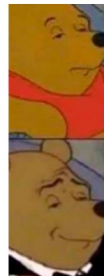
**WHEN DOES
SEASON 2 OF
2020 START?
I DO NOT LIKE
SEASON 1.**

possible getaway destinations still available..... thanks @Vikkil_vik!!!

Where is your next travel destination?

- Las Kitchenas
- Los Lounges
- Santa Bedrooms
- Porto Gardenas
- Los bed
- Costa Del Balconia
- St bathroom

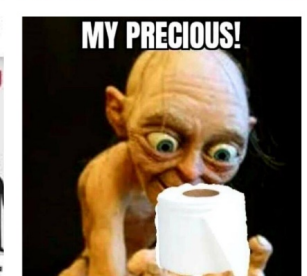
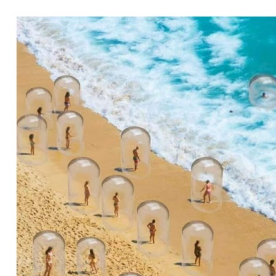
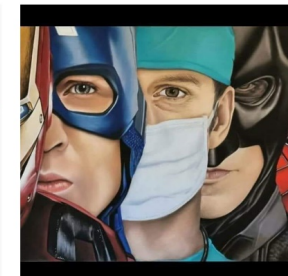
**BREAKING
NEWS**
Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent CoVid-19 but to stop eating! 😂



**The Chine
Coronavir**

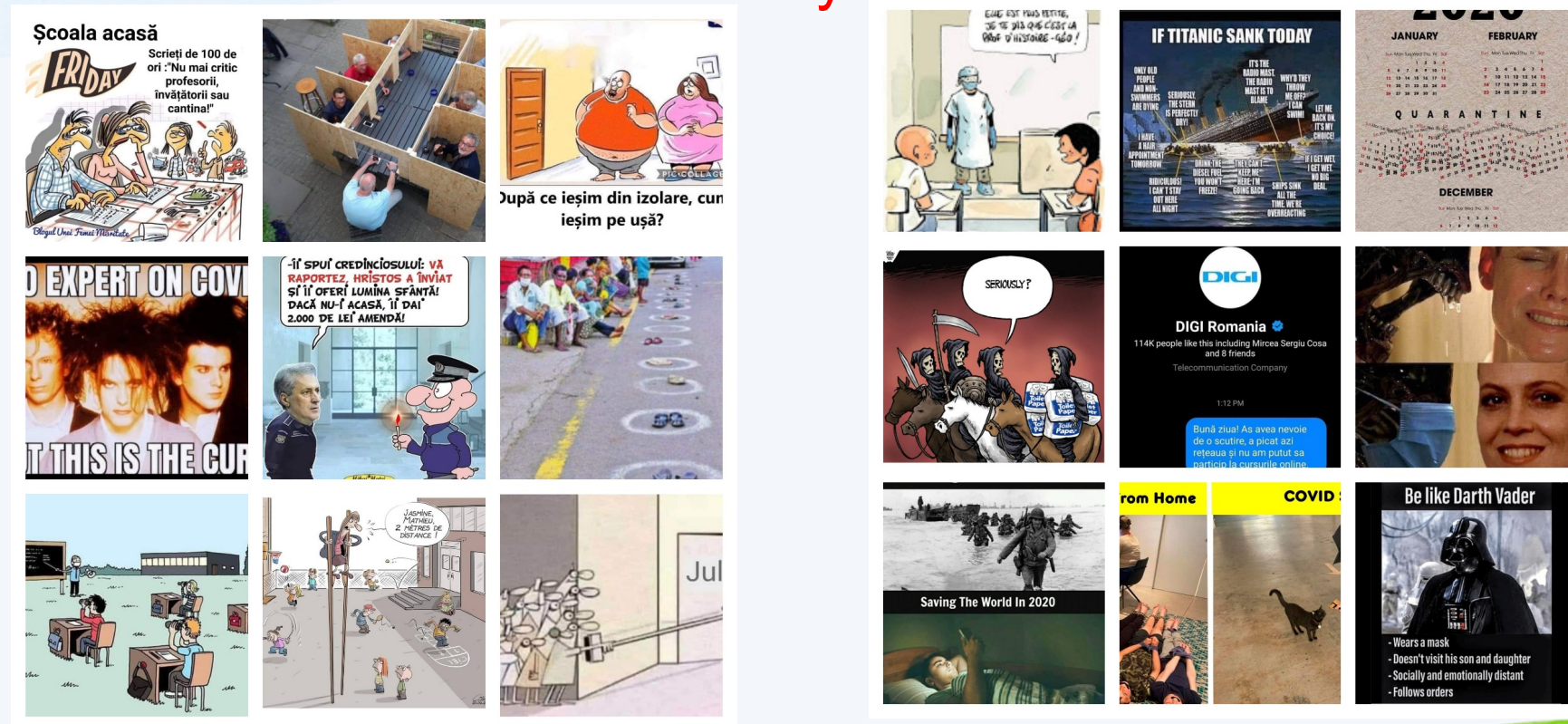
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**NU S-A PUTUT SPĂLA PE MÂINI
ACUM NU MAI EXISTĂ**

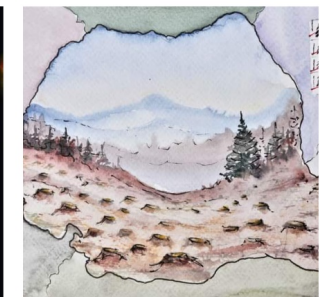
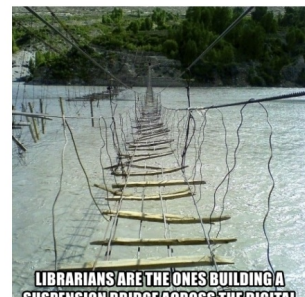
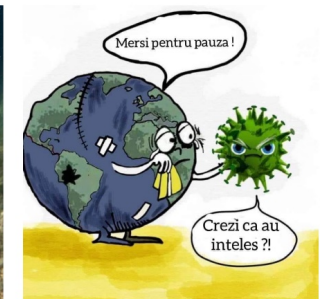
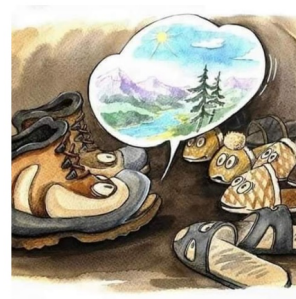
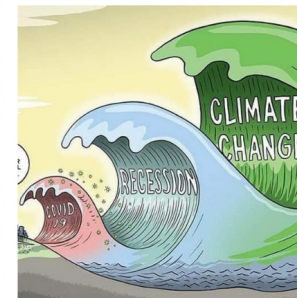


3. COVID-19 related MEMEs

“Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine.” —
Lord Byron



3. Green Bridges related MEMES





II. Activities during summer JUNE – AUGUST 2020

The journeys have been firstly well documented and researched as VIRTUAL JOURNEYS and published in the shared Google Drive folder of the project, available in .pdf download. Each participant selected and planned his/her route according to the project's topic and standards. The virtual journey is the basic resource for the real journey developed by the participants for social cohesion, wellbeing and counter the effects of isolation.

After the actual journeys were implemented on real field, the documented materials were assessed in Management meetings by the project management team, were analysed if they meet the project's objectives and shall compete for the physical product of the project, the local Green Way, chosen lately in the project course.

1. VIRTUAL JOURNEY TO POIANA CU SCHIT

<https://greenbridgesproject.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/danas-virtual-journey-poiana-cu-schit.pdf>

This is my individual research for a journey that I would like to physically make, together with others, when possible, for visiting an interesting natural site, near Iasi city.

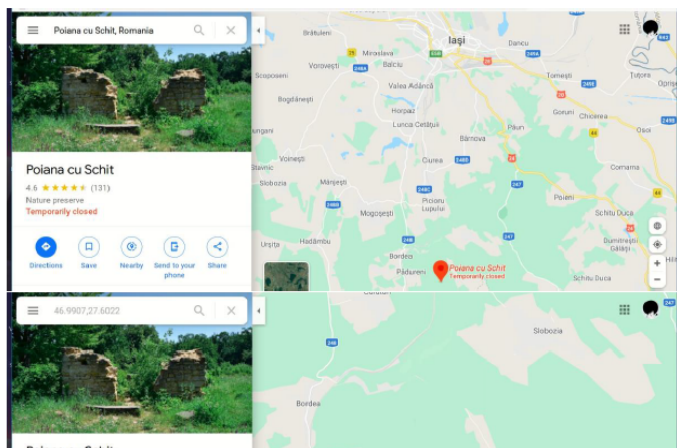
It's a place I never visited, even if I live in Iasi for more than 20 years...

It was only recently, by the help of Green Bridges project, that I actually discovered it exists... I might have heard about it in the past but was never quite aware how interesting may be.

So it makes it perfectly for documenting a virtual journey about it and hope to make it happen as soon as possible.

The Poiana cu Schit nature reserve

"Poiana cu Schit" is a natural reservation of national interest, with floristic character, with an area of 9.5 ha, located on the administrative territory of Grajduri commune (Borosești forest). It is owned by the state and in the administration and custody of the Iasi Forestry Directorate.



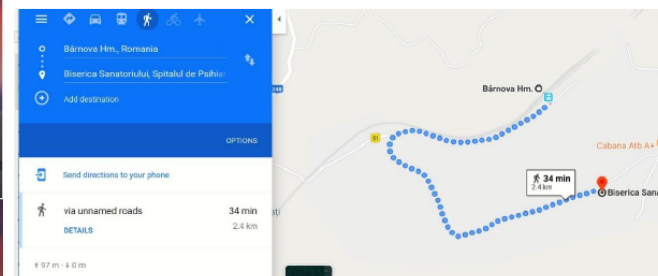
An interesting detail about the train journey: the route includes passing through Bârnova Tunnel (Location - 47° 0'57" N 27° 34'26" E - CFR Bârnova Station). The first tunnel was built in 1892, the second in 1980 when the line was doubled.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6la5N5uQeAO>

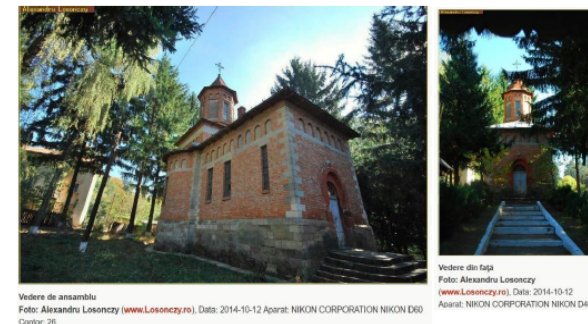
Arriving in Bârnova railway station – cooler and fresh air (forest all around), nature all around, city left behind. Seems that the railway station itself looks very picturesque!



From Bârnova railway station walking to Bârnova Sanatorium Church, go around it on the left and continue the road to the former Bârnova chalet.



Seems that the Bârnova Sanatorium Church itself looks amazing, surrounded by mount.



From there, two ways are possible, which makes it perfect for a circuit:

First way: you can continue through the forest following the marking (blue dot) c



Second way: on the road, until the entrance to the village of Poiana cu Cetate, near the (GPS coordinates: 47° 0'5.38" N / 27° 35'33.4" E), from where it continues through the dot marking followed by blue dot.

1. VIRTUAL JOURNEY TO DOBROVĂȚ

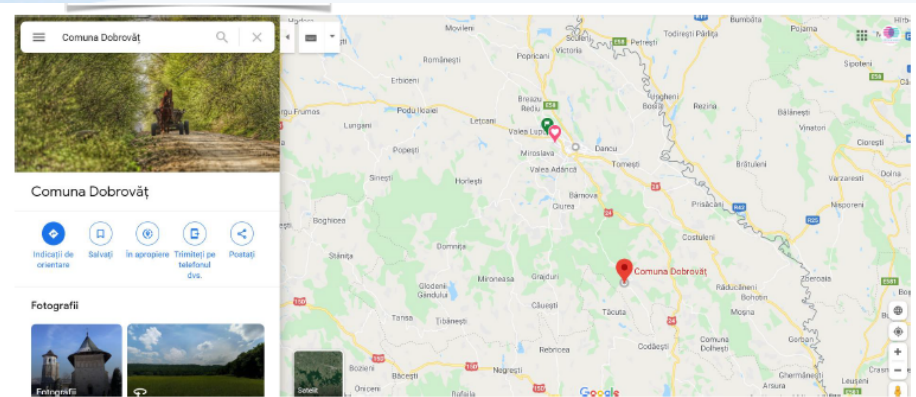
<https://greenbridgesproject.org/a-virtual-journey/>

Virtual journey to Dobrovat

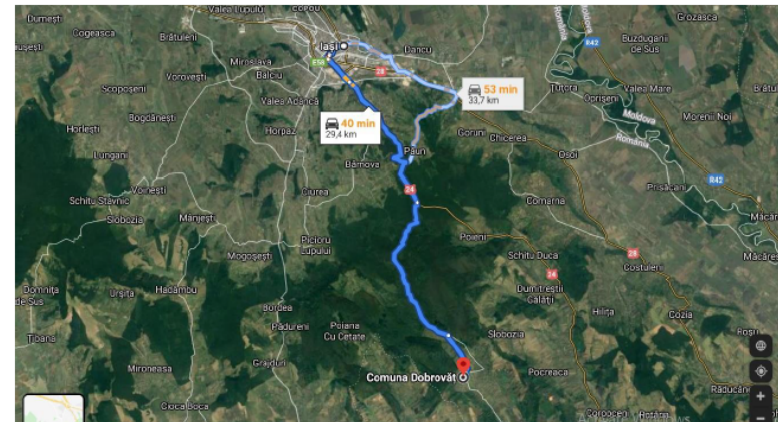
Since 4th grade when I have visited Iasi for the 1st time and fell in love with it, I wanted to discover every bit of its surroundings. Dobrovat is one of the places I have heard many times from my friends and acquaintances who live in Iasi, either sport or simple nature lovers. And when you hear the name of a place more than once, you definitely want to go there and see with your own eyes.

- What is Dobrovat?

Dobrovat or with original spelling, *Dobrovăț*, is a locality at the south edge of the Iasi county at the limit with Vaslui county that is inhabited since Stefan cel Mare period (around 1500 A.C.)



The locality is at almost 30 km from Iasi, near Barnova with a total surface of almost 9.300 ha being thus a small commune. You can visit it just by car, as regular bus or train do not exist.



REAL JOURNEYS (O1&O2)

July- October 2020

IAȘI-BÂRNOVA-POIANA CU SCHIT-

-POIANA CU CETATE – BÂRNOVA-IAȘI


Searching for the “Green Bridges” near Iași

August 26th, 2020

I. BÂRNOVA-POIANA CU SCHIT

We, the Romanians have an old saying: “*The forest is the Romanian's brother*”. As the forest has always served our ancestors as shelter and food supplies, during this pandemics people felt the forest's calling more than ever.

After a thorough documentation on various webpages, Facebook or straight to the train station for accurate information and serious packing for a whole day trip, ASIE's board members met at the main train station in Iași in the morning at 6.30 and headed by train during 30 minutes towards south, precisely Bârnova station. We passed through the interesting old tunnel before Bârnova.

The station was almost deserted (except for some homeless dogs). Although we researched a lot, we had to go behind the train station building to find the starting point for the blue dot route  on a pillar.



The view is amazing! The green is energizing and you really feel the joy that you are there, in the middle of the nature, just you and your friends discovering a treasure so well hidden and so close to our homes.

After almost 2 h of walking (5.60 km), we arrived to a clearing that we mistook for the Poiana cu Schit and after checking and we realized this is not our point of interest, we continued the blue dot trail and in 150 m we found the real clearing, Poiana cu Schit.



The green banner made by the Romanian Academy with the Forest Agency of Pădureni Village informs us: “*POIANA CU SCHIT, Floristic reservation, surface = 9.50 ha. The down of the Repedeș-Bârnova type shall be protected along with its 200 species of anthophytes.*”

II. POIANA CU SCHIT – POIANA CU CETATE



On the way towards Poiana cu Cetate we were lucky to see deer running in the forest. We did not have the time to take a photo, they are very quick. But their mere presence made us feel special and lucky. We quickly arrived at the end of the forest (21 min) and arrived to the asphalted road that goes through the Poiana cu Cetate village centre where is the Church of Cujba.



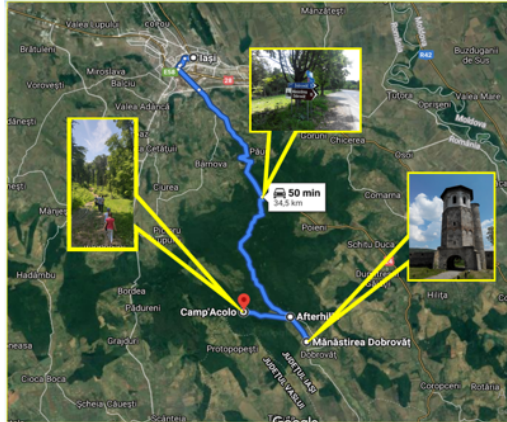
Below is the Strava track that tracks even when offline with no GPS signal.

★ Poiana cu Schit - Poiana cu Cetate





Dobrovăț Trail – July 6th, 2020



After we checked the weather twice on many devices for the day of July 6th, A.S.I.E's members headed by cars to Dobrovăț as after documentation we found out no trains or buses go to this village from Iasi. On the European road E58, we drove through Bucium forest 10.6 km towards Vashui city. The air quality changes quickly to better after you get out of the polluted city of Iasi.

At the cross road signalled as in the photo below, we took the first right on the County road DJ247 towards Dobrovat Monastery.



After 11.4 km of very inclined bends, we saw the Monastery in front of us. We parked the cars in a large parking and we entered a quiet and very old rock church in the style of Stephen the Great, with big walls surrounding it.

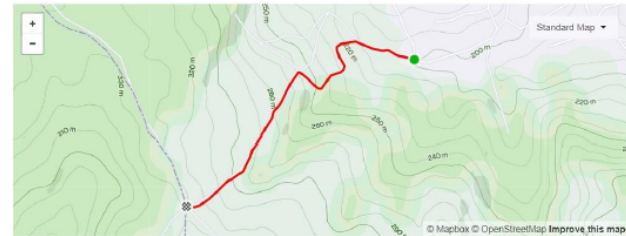


This is the climbing segment, recorded offline with Strava application.

Ride Segment Dobrovăț, Județul Iasi, Romania

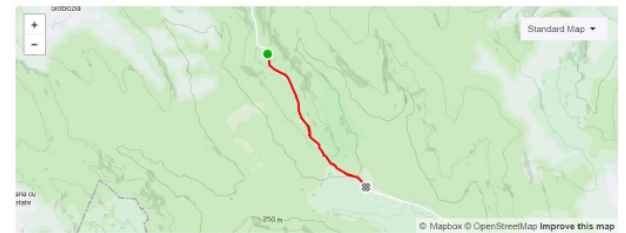
Distance	Avg Grade	Lowest Elev	Highest Elev	Elev Difference	Climb Category
1.48km	8.8%	197m	327m	130m	4

351 Attempts By 165 People



After proper feeding and hydration, we tried again, this time a woodland road with soft tation, straight and easy to walk through.

Distance	Avg Grade	Lowest Elev	Highest Elev	Elev Difference	11 Attempts By 14 People
3.17km	-4.2%	228m	360m	132m	



"Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations. The best is yet to come." ~Zig Ziglar



GREEN BRIDGE –BIKING HOME STORY (07)



- Alexandru cel Bun Neighbourhood – Splai Bahlui – Podu de Piatra – Podu Roș - LTMA (Technological Highschool of Mechatronics and Automation)
- 5 days a week, return, during the summer months
- 25-30 min home to my place of work



III. Autumn activities with joint participation of ASIE members and volunteers

SEPTEMBER – END OF OCTOBER 2020

- To integrate into the local community
- To bridge the Green Bridges project themes to the activities we have participated
- To have the opportunity to speak, present and discuss about GB project
- To make local networks, to meet key persons, volunteers and other community members interested in the themes of our project

“Magic” Sensorial Garden



Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi and its partners have opened in July 2020 a Sensorial garden in the Titu Maiorescu park in Copou for children between 0-11 years old. The garden contains outdoor educational materials that connect all the 5 senses used in their development stages: touching (wooden tunnels), audio: Bongo drums, xylophone, sight: illusions, colours; smell: flowers, aromatic plants; taste: minibar for the squirrels. The garden bridges the outdoor educational material to the needs of the community's young representatives.

5 ASIE members have experienced being kids again for 1h30, testing all the sensorial toys displayed.

Cultural events in open spaces

Nature and reading in the Botanical Garden (I)

ASIE's members have participated to an innovative book release on the 30th of August of the author Adina Cristea Palada. She released her book "Dezrădăcinații" (The rootless), 2 volumes, a book about resistance and nostalgia that bridges the characters' search for their roots.



Nature and reading in the Botanical Garden (II)

ASIE has organized at the beginning on Friday, October 9th 2020 a lecture workshop entitled "Green Books". Participants brought their favourite book and read important paragraphs to the others and discussed the relevance of their choice(s). Participants visited even the Japanese summerhouse and had some cups of tea.



Community activities: Street Delivery Local Event 2020 edition – 11-13 September 2020

Iasi, the city of the urban community gardens?

Comunitatea Vie Association, Food Forest (urban farm) and Street Delivery have organized a guided tour at their pilot farm developed during the lockdown in order to increase community awareness regarding urban gardening.



Guided nocturnal tour of Iasi City



ASIE's members have participated on Saturday, September 12th at 18.00 to a guided tour through the historical centre of Iasi organized by Iasi.Travel Association. The route started in Union Square through Cuza Voda Street, Moldova Philharmonics, National Theatre, Cathedral, City Hall of Iasi, Trei Ierarhi Monastery and the last, but not the least, Palace of Culture.

Starting different, Act in synergy!

What?

- educational outdoor activities for educational professionals, starting a different school year
- creating a “bridge’ between people & communities & in developing sensitivity & understanding between the participants and the natural world
- exploring, discovering, re-discovering the green spaces in Iasi in a different approach: as educational spaces
- preventing burnout, depression, lack of skills in implementing activities outside, without direct contact between participants

Who?

- 30 Educational professionals from ASIE and CJRAE Iasi (our associated partner and host in the first transnational meeting in Iasi)
- 5 invited volunteers from parent’s associations in Iasi
- 5 youngster volunteers from a Dance Club in Iasi

When?

28th September 2020

Where?

The Botanical Garden Iasi (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ia%C8%99i_Botanical_Garden)

The Iasi Exhibition Park (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ia%C8%99i_Exhibition_Park)



NEW PARTNERS



GREENPEACE

- ASIE has become the partner of different associations and organizations which imply various campaigns to protect the environment. It started with Codrii Iasilor (<https://www.facebook.com/codrii.iasilor/>) at the beginning of the year and then followed Greenpeace Romania (<https://www.greenpeace.org/romania/>). The latter is running a national campaign for the protection and sustainable management of forests, because without healthy and prosperous forests, the earth cannot sustain life. For the future of forests in Romania, Greenpeace proposes the creation of an extensive network of protected areas, sustainable management, as well as the capitalization and responsible consumption of forest products.
- ASIE participated to **local actions of Codrii Iasilor group** – July, August, September 2020: online contest of old pictures, greening activities, debates, polls, local flora&fauna collections of pictures, local walks&initiatives.

Walk IN the forest, FOR the forest

What: Only 1% of the Barnova-Repedea forest is strictly protected. The members of the community met to request the increase of this percent by forming a human chain along the forest they defend. The activity is based on the petition described here (<https://cutt.ly/HgIVW43>).

When: Sunday, September 13th, 17.00

Who: 3 ASIE members + 1 volunteer

Where: Junction DJ247A (to Dobrovăţ from Iaşi-Vaslui main road) with Bogonos forest road

Video: <https://cutt.ly/YgIVO5r>



Save the forests now,
tomorrow will be too late.



ASIE's Future Plans

ASIE has already implemented all seven tangible objectives proposed in the project's application so far. Therefore, ASIE members:

- ☐ will research info & document one more Green Way
- ☐ For the stories, we will prepare some interviews with some key persons who are activating within the environmental protection of forests around Iasi
- ☐ Stories of the main bridges in Iasi (e.g the Red bridge, where does this name come from?)
- ☐ Continuous dissemination of the project within the community interest groups