

Imago Mundi Youth Initiatives and Projects Association



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

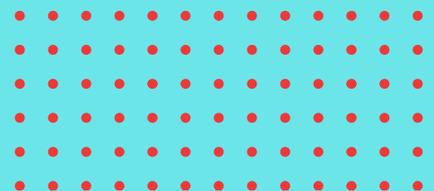


Our partners



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VIRTUAL YOUTH EXCHANGE (EDCYBER PROJECT)

February – March



In 2024, the Imago Mundi Association continued the EDCyber initiative – Promoting European Digital Citizenship in Young People through Cyberanimation approach, which aims to develop young people's digital skills and promote European digital citizenship. The project uses the "cyberanimation" method, aimed at encouraging young people's active participation in the online environment and the responsible use of technology, while contributing to increasing social inclusion.

The project organized three Virtual Youth Exchange workshops, supported by the association's youth workers, dedicated to constructive dialogue, active citizenship and the role of young people in changing society. The activities involved students from the Ion C. Brătianu National College and the Zinca Golescu National College in Pitești and took place both in the two educational institutions and within the Ilfoveanu & Badea Cultural Foundation. The workshops included interactive activities such as brainstorming, presentations, role-playing games, pro and con debates, developing themes related to collaboration, diversity, civic spirit and the effectiveness of online activism compared to offline in promoting social change.



WINDOW YOUTH

February - October

The Window Youth project was launched in January 2024 and aims to provide disadvantaged young people, through training in technical, transversal skills and media literacy, with the opportunity to use podcasts as a tool in their local communities to make their voices heard.

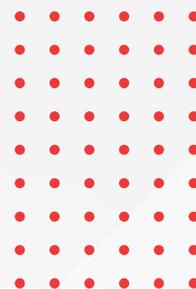
Thus, the Imago Mundi association participated in the Kickoff Meeting in Naples as part of the Window Youth project, to present it to some of the future participants who will learn how to create and record podcasts.

The 2024 project activities concluded with the training of trainers organized in Seville, Spain, where four of our youth workers participated and learned how to plan, record, edit and promote a podcast through practical exercises, consolidating their knowledge by creating a podcast in mixed teams.



ASKILLS

March - October



The aSKILLS - Alpha Generation's Skills - A Gateway for Educational Improvement project aims to support both young people and adults involved in education in the career guidance process of future generations, by developing and testing educational methods and materials that promote understanding of labor market needs and the valorization of green skills.

In March, youth workers from the Imago Mundi association participated in an international meeting organized in Morbegno, Italy, dedicated to the presentation of the FutureMe methodology developed by Studio Shift within the project. Following this meeting, starting with April, the methodology was brought to Romania to undergo testing activities - workshops with students from the I.C. Brătianu National College. Interactive educational tools were tested, such as self-knowledge questionnaires, reflection exercises on the past, exploration activities of the present and creative exercises aimed at helping participants plan a sustainable future. FutureMe was later presented to teachers, during the summer.

October marked the end of the project in 2024, when the association's youth workers participated in a new transnational meeting held in Vicenza, Italy, organized by the Margherita Cooperative, during which the new Bootcamp educational methodology, to be tested, was presented and the next stages of the project were established.



PNRAS

March - November

In 2024, Imago Mundi carried out a series of educational activities within the National Program for Reducing School Dropout, dedicated to students, parents and teachers.

In the first part of the year, activities took place in the form of modules for parents, but also for teachers. Parents of students from the Gheorghe I.I.C Brătianu Secondary School, Rătești, participated in a parenting course, which addressed topics such as the differences between traditional and modern parenting, the transition from puberty to adolescence, setting limits and developing children's skills. In parallel, teachers benefited from mentoring and coaching activities, with a focus on career guidance, vocational identity development, school behavior management, as well as the prevention of absenteeism and school dropout, through theoretical presentations, practical exercises and case studies.

Next, educational workshops and personal development activities were held with students from the "Petre Tudose" Middle School in Mălureni, addressing topics such as preventing violence in the school environment, combating bullying and cyberbullying, preventing drug use, but also the importance of self-knowledge and teamwork. Workshops were also organized for teachers from the Mușătești Middle School, on classroom management and managing disruptive student behavior.

Towards the end of the year, students from Gheorghe I.I.C. Brătianu Rătești Secondary School participated in socio-emotional development and vocational guidance sessions, which included topics such as conflict management, stress management, and organizing the learning process.



HOGWORDS MOBILITY

may



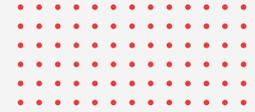
Between 7–11 May 2024, ten students from Romania, accompanied by youth workers from the Imago Mundi association, participated in the Erasmus+ HOGWORDS School of Cryptography for Young Learners mobility in Rome, Italy. The activity brought together students from Romania and Italy for a week dedicated to exploring cryptography and how mathematics and computer science are used to crack codes and protect information.

The program included educational activities, cultural exchanges, and a visit to the CNR-IAC headquarters, where students attended presentations by researchers and professors in the fields of mathematics, statistics, and computer engineering. They discovered concepts such as linear algebra, securing digital messages, and study and career opportunities in STEM fields.

The highlight of the mobility was the cryptography competition, where students worked in teams to solve puzzles and crack codes. The activity encouraged critical thinking, collaboration and intercultural exchange, providing participants with a valuable educational experience and new international friendships.

SHOOT FOR THE FUTURE

April - May



The Erasmus+ project "Shoot for the Future" aimed to develop the skills of youth workers from 5 partner organizations in the field of video production, so that they can use modern visual tools to support young people in the process of personal and professional development and to increase their chances of integration into the labor market.

Between April 29 and May 6, 2024, youth workers from the organization participated in the training course organized in Elniakampis, Lithuania, where they took part in a series of activities dedicated to teamwork, followed by theoretical and practical sessions on photography, videography and making promotional videos. Through non-formal education methods and practical exercises, participants learned how to use these skills to convey relevant messages for their communities.

The mobility resulted in final products, such as a videography guide for young people, videos made during a work trip to Vilnius and interactive educational activities for students at a local high school, addressing topics such as cyberbullying, the challenges of an employment process, combating loneliness through community involvement or climate change. Later, in May, the project results were presented at a dissemination event about the mobility experience, organized in Pitești. Participants had the opportunity to view the materials made during the project, which will be further used as educational resources for young people.



A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

may



On Saturday, May 25, 2024, Imago Mundi organized the conference "Transforming Education through Artificial Intelligence: A Look into the Future" at the Ilfoveanu & Badea Cultural Foundation in Pitești. The event brought together students and teachers from the "Zinca Golescu" National College, the "Ion I. C. Brătianu" National College in Pitești and the "Gheorghe I. I. C. Brătianu" Secondary School in Rătești, along with volunteers from the organization. The activity began with a presentation about the association's mission and projects, including the Erasmus+ initiatives carried out in recent years.

The conference featured a presentation dedicated to artificial intelligence, in which participants learned about the evolution of this technology and the impact it can have on education, from the perspective of developing the digital skills of students and teachers.

In the second part of the event, participants worked in teams to discuss and analyze various questions related to the use of artificial intelligence, exploring both its advantages and possible risks. The activity ended with a reflection session and discussions on the conclusions formulated, providing participants with the opportunity to better understand the role of technology and the future of artificial intelligence in education.

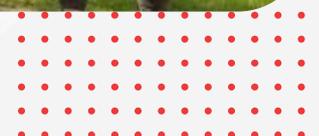
CHILDREN AND NATURE

June

On International Children's Day, the Imago Mundi Association, in collaboration with the Reaching Out Romania Center, organized a series of outdoor activities dedicated to the center's beneficiaries, the association's volunteers and the students of the "Zinca Golescu" National College and the "I.C. Brătianu" National College in Pitești, coordinated by a team of youth workers.

The program included creative and recreational activities designed to encourage socialization, collaboration, and artistic expression. Participants created themed collages, through which they could express their creativity, and took part in a picnic in nature, which provided a relaxing setting for interaction and spending time together. Group games and team-building activities were also organized, designed to stimulate communication and team spirit.

Through these activities, the event aimed not only to celebrate Children's Day, but also to support the personal development of the participants, encouraging free expression, creativity and strengthening social relationships in a friendly setting.



CLAP

June - October



The CLAP project - Children's Rights Awareness and Participation addressing emerging needs in the Covid-19 pandemic aims to increase awareness of children's rights and their involvement in decision-making processes that concern them, taking into account the needs of young people emerging in the context of the pandemic.

Three training courses dedicated to teachers, youth workers and other specialists working with young people were organized in June and July, within the Capacity Building Training component. The workshops addressed topics such as the effects of the pandemic on children and adolescents, understanding the needs of the post-pandemic generation and transforming these difficult experiences into development opportunities, through presentations, discussions and practical exercises aimed at analyzing the social, emotional and educational impact of the pandemic.

In the second half of the year, roundtables and participatory workshops were organized in Argeș County, bringing together children and representatives of local institutions to discuss the effects of the pandemic on the education, mental health and social life of young people. Also during this period, the Child Local Council Laboratory series of workshops was held, through which children learned about their rights, about decision-making mechanisms at the local level and about ways in which they can express their opinions and support interests in the community.



I COUNT TOO!



October

In October 2024, the event "I count too! Change is in my voice" was organized at the Replika Educational Theater Center in Bucharest, dedicated to children and adolescents involved in the activities of the CLAP project. The event brought together young people from Bucharest and Pitești, along with parents, teachers and community members, offering them an open space to express their ideas and share the experiences gained within the project.

The activity included moments of presentation of the organizations involved, followed by interactive knowledge activities between the participants. The young people discussed their experiences within the Local Children's Councils, their participation in laboratories and round tables, and how these activities helped them to more easily express their opinions, understand their emotions and better manage stress, especially in the context of the changes generated by the pandemic.

During the event, participants also presented proposals for local initiatives aimed at promoting children's rights and youth involvement in community life. The activity also included social games, and the meeting ended with a feedback and reflection session. The event highlighted the importance of active participation of children and adolescents and the role they can play in generating positive changes in their communities.



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