**Activity Description for Erasmus+ Report**

**Title:**

**CULTURAL MIRRORS — Group Mobility in Romania**

**Participants:**

15 students and 1 accompanying teacher

**Location:**

Ploiești, Prahova County, Romania

**Duration:**

16.06.2025 – 20.06.2025

**Activity Description**

The "Cultural Mirrors" group mobility brought together 15 students and 1 accompanying teacher from Bulgaria and a host group from Romania, for a five-day mobility focused on intercultural dialogue, inclusion, personal development, and creative collaboration. The activity was designed in alignment with Erasmus+ priorities, using non-formal education methods to enhance students’ intercultural competences and foster European values of mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation.

**DAY 1 — Discovering Who We Are**

The mobility started with ice-breaking activities and getting-to-know-you exercises, designed to help students build rapport and develop early connections. Students worked in mixed groups to complete **Identity Maps**, where they shared their personal origins, cultural backgrounds, hobbies, and passions. This promoted self-awareness and set the tone for open intercultural dialogue throughout the mobility.

Students then participated in a **City Discovery Challenge**, exploring Ploiești while completing a guided Photo Challenge. Working in teams, they searched for local landmarks, street art, monuments, and favorite local youth spaces, capturing these through photographs. The activity promoted collaborative exploration and cultural curiosity. The day concluded with a **Photo Corner** under the theme *"One Smile, Two Cultures"*, symbolizing friendship and the diversity of their backgrounds.

**DAY 2 — Art Unites Us**

The second day focused on creative expression as a tool for inclusion and intercultural learning. Students participated in a **joint painting workshop**, where they created visual representations of cultural symbols from both Bulgaria and Romania. Together, they designed a collaborative piece titled **"The Flag of Common Values"**, symbolizing tolerance, respect, friendship, and joy—values shared across cultures.

The art activities were complemented by a **traditional music and rhythm workshop**. Students listened to traditional songs from both countries and participated in rhythm-based team games, using music as a universal language to foster cooperation and enjoyment.

In the afternoon, the group visited the **Prahova County Art Museum “Ion Ionescu-Quintus”**, where they learned about local art history and its role in cultural identity, preservation, and intercultural understanding.

**DAY 3 — Together We Succeed**

The third day centered on collaboration and intercultural communication through non-formal outdoor activities. Students exchanged knowledge of traditional dances by teaching each other basic steps of the **Romanian “Hora” and Bulgarian traditional dances**. This physical, non-verbal interaction reinforced mutual learning and cultural appreciation.

A **Language Race** followed, where mixed teams matched basic Romanian and Bulgarian words. This playful activity introduced linguistic diversity and promoted spontaneous language learning.

The **Trust Partner Exercise** helped develop empathy, trust, and non-verbal communication. Students worked in pairs guiding each other through short obstacle courses, one being blindfolded while the other offered verbal instructions.

The day concluded with personal reflections where students presented short speeches or written messages on **“What I learned from my partner”**. Additionally, a **mini-exhibition** showcased the artistic works and photographs produced throughout the previous days.

**DAY 4 — Flavors and Stories from Home**

This day was dedicated to cultural discovery through a **full-day excursion** in Prahova County and Ploiești. Guided visits offered historical, cultural, and culinary insights into the host country’s heritage. Students experienced local traditions, tasted regional foods, and engaged in storytelling sessions, deepening their understanding of the host country’s culture.

**DAY 5 — What Connects Us**

The final day focused on reflection and evaluation. Through guided group discussions and informal conversations, students shared their personal learning outcomes, emotional experiences, and newly acquired knowledge.

The mobility closed with a **final celebration and certificate ceremony**, recognizing the participants' active engagement and achievements during the programme. Informal farewell activities allowed students to exchange contacts and consolidate the friendships built during the week.

**Learning Approach and Methods**

The mobility used a variety of educational approaches:

* Non-formal education methods (games, workshops, reflection sessions)
* Peer-to-peer learning (mixed teams, mutual teaching of dances, languages)
* Experiential learning (city tours, museum visits, excursions)
* Artistic and creative expression (painting, photography, music)
* Trust-building and social-emotional learning activities

**Main Themes Covered**

* Intercultural understanding and dialogue
* Inclusion and tolerance
* Cultural identity and heritage
* Creativity and art as universal languages
* Cooperation and teamwork
* Language learning and communication skills
* European values and citizenship

**Main Results Achieved**

* Enhanced intercultural awareness, empathy, and tolerance
* Development of communication, cooperation, and leadership skills
* Increased self-confidence and personal growth
* New international friendships and networks
* Artistic and creative outputs: identity maps, collaborative art, photo exhibitions, dance performances
* Strengthened sense of European identity and belonging

**Conclusion**

The "Cultural Mirrors" mobility provided a meaningful learning experience where students not only discovered a new culture but also discovered more about themselves. The combination of formal, non-formal, and informal learning created a rich, inclusive environment where all students could actively participate, express themselves, and grow personally, socially, and culturally.