



Thematic trip: “Save Roşia Montană”

Marcu Eugenia

Constantin Brancusi School, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. E-mail: marcugina@yahoo.com

The name Roşia Montană, situated in Transylvania, became well known after a Romanian-Canadian company, Roşia Montană Gold Company (RMGC), obtained the concession license on exploitation for gold and silver minerals in the Roşia Montană area. The project consists of opening the largest surface gold mines in Europe using cyanide, which will include four open pits and a processing plant for gold and silver in The Roşia Valley and a tailings facility with an area of 367 hectares in the Corna Valley. One of the main fears is related to a possible ecological accident like the one in Baia Mare in 2000, when a tailing facility dam break led to cyanide pollution of Tisa and Danube rivers that resulted in the death of 1,200 tons of fish and contamination of water resources for 2 million people. This thematic trip is important for the scientific preparation of students and an opportunity to educate them in the spirit of environmental protection. The training and education of students will require assimilation and understanding, actively and consciously, using the knowledge acquired during the compulsory curriculum and training skills.

REASON: The continuous degradation of the environment is a major crisis due to human intervention in nature, and the proposed Roşia Montană mining project will continue this trend. The company proposes to extract gold from mines by using the gold separation technique using cyanide, a process that involves destroying a total area of 16 km² which includes 5 mountains, 7 churches, 11 cemeteries and the ruins of Alburnus Maior Citadel, as well as creating pollution that would last for hundreds of years. The extraction of gold from low-grade ores using cyanide processes was estimated to result in a worldwide emission of 45,300 tons of hydrogen cyanide.

Environmental education for a healthy life has children as target group, because they are the trustees and beneficiaries of tomorrow's natural resources and can influence the attitudes of parents and the community. The active involvement of the students in this activity consisted in both observation of destructive effects of mining as well as granting their vote to support the Save Roşia Montană campaign “Cyanide Free Romania” and communicating the future consequences of the mining project Roşia Montană.

PURPOSE: Students embracing active environmental behavior and their involvement in concrete environmental protection actions.

OBJECTIVE: 1) Correct understanding of human-environment relationships and the interdependence between environmental quality and quality of life. 2) The creation and development of theoretical ecological awareness and its implementation in environmental practice. This increases the quality of education and achieving goals using extracurricular activities. 3) Development of research, exploration and environmental investigation skills.

EVALUATION: 1) Creating an illustrative exhibit of the trip. 2) Illustrated oral presentations within classes, councils and parents' meetings

CONCLUSIONS: The trip to Roşia Montană aroused the interest of students to environmental protection; they noticed the importance of human behavior that impacts the natural environment, which must be protected from negative human activities by addressing an active eco-civic attitude, which must be acquired at an early school age.