



The next generation

From the numerous alternatives and options for implementing the 5th edition of the "Probitas" Program, that of inviting as appliers high school students open skilled for being a journalist we considered it from the start the most in interesting. The most provocative, but in a way the most risky from the general prospective of the project.

In the previous editions of the program, the participants were selected exclusively from the young journalist from the Euro-region Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa individuals with a certain experience in the domain of written and audio-visual press (a guarantee without any problems to achieve the main goals of the programs: the illustrated magazine "Probitas" and the one hour multi-cultural radio-show) but this time nothing could be treated without assuming certain risks. As a promise. As a work hypothesis. With the presumption that maybe with a little more effort from the project coordinators we will achieve what we have hoped for.

Not only because the very young applicants haven't created in their entire "career", more than a few school compositions, maybe an article or two for the school newspaper or a small collaboration with the radio station, but because their naturally lack of experience would have been doubled by their natural immaturity in evaluating and judging the reality that surrounds them. To stay in touch with the reality journalistically, to "filter" it, to discover its shades, to lighten up its problems, to figure out solutions. Finally to communicate without inhibitions towards the interviewed people, to help them access the information and, through this, in the end, help them understand better the world they are living in.

Beside that, the handicap of the work equipment, from the simple IT editing of the journalistic materials to their digital processing and post-processing features, had to be overcome. Not to say that (and not the least!) the time was short and the principles and the working methods had to be put in practice, immediately and unconditionally.

And all this in the ten days of the session, treated as holiday, summer camp with all the two notions, from trips and relaxation moments to the "fun" that this age, demands.

But we said to ourselves that even if the press materials of the young applicants won't reach the professional standards imposed of the previous editions of the project, the experiment deserves to be made no matter the risks even if the ten days spent together and the pieces of work done will only add "a something" to the intellectual formation of the young applicants, and to their future as citizens of United Europe.

We started this experience with a simple idea: if it is impossible in only a few days to define or at least create a future destiny, a future career of journalist, at least the contact with the basic elements of communication and creativity in journalism can mean an interesting, useful and memorable experience in the order of building up a personality and passing from being a teen to being a grown up.

Moreover these teens who are a few steps before the age of 18 are, without any doubt, the next generation, the generation which will represent our country after so many years of non-confirmed wishes besides the other nations of the united, democratic and free Europe!

Absolutely pleasant surprises came from the first participants of "Probitas 2005"!

It was a team that worked together from the first days and did everything almost impeccably.

An editorial team that would win the envy of a lot of other teams from the Romanian press!

A small community of journalists to become that succeeded to fulfill its tasks with great precision and punctuality. They raised up high the level of this year's edition of the project "Probitas", sending a message of quality that is to be equalized, if not overpass.

It is well understood that what they have succeeded must not be judged strictly, sticking to the criteria of professional competence. Maybe not all of the materials would find their place in a mass production publication. However performance must be looked for in the simple idea that it has been done and less in journalistic professionalism.

Reading their materials and listening to the radio program, which lasts for an hour, its impossible not to remark that the future career is sending signals towards us. Without being one of the well known journalists they have more talent and why not vocation, then others of their age. The desire and will to accomplish later what they wish now. The chance of becoming the next generation of journalist of European Romania.

MARIAN ODANGIU
Project coordinator

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Project coordinator:
MARIAN ODANGIU
Coordinator Editor: VIOLETA FICARD

Editorial team: **ANDRA ANDREEA ANTON**, "William Shakespeare" High School Timișoara, **PATRICIA CARMEN CALAI**, "William Shakespeare" High School Timișoara, **NATALIA SORINA MATEI**, "William Shakespeare" High School Timișoara, **NELA FLORINA TOMOIAGĂ**, "William Shakespeare" High School Timișoara, **LUCIAN ALEXANDRU TODORUȚ**, „Ion Mincu” Technical College Timișoara

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Interview with M.Eugen Cernescu

Eugen Cernescu: Doctors usually work in their private consultories and because of the little number of inhabitants it isn't profitable for them. That's why they prefer working in other places.

Interviewer: Leftovers are a real danger and can cause a lot of diseases. Does a system of collecting them function?

Eugen Cernescu: We try to work with the people's mentality and it is a very hard job. It may sound surprisingly to you but as you go away from the plain and get to the mountains the mentality of people becomes more and more difficult to change, even if they now have different ways of communication and information. Personally I think that the environmental problem is spread all over Romania. It is hard to make people understand that it is not right to throw leftovers anywhere around them.

Interviewer: Does the town hall have a car that collects these leftovers?

Eugen Cernescu: No, the town hall has got only a tractor, which is used every day to collect the leftovers, which are then taken to a "răpă", how we call it here. The problem is that people keep throwing dirt into the river.

Interviewer: You have been a mayor here even the former four years when PSD parti used to rule the country. We know that you are a member of this party. The funds you received than were higher than the ones you receive now when the country is ruled by the DA alliance?

Eugen Cernescu: I am not a proud man and at the moment when this change took place I stepped on my heart and went on this path together with the ones that have the money we need. This only because my aim is to help the people and not to rest aside. A month after the elections I was asked if I wanted to pass on their side and I accepted. Then, that's what I thought right. The villagers chose me in order to help them, even if some people from higher positions got upset. It doesn't matter what political color you are. I didn't hesitate to take that step and I didn't take into account the pressures put on me from different persons. Now I am convinced I did the right thing. I have been helped when waters flooded our community and I also got some funds that can be used for different projects. I am an honest person and I am telling you that if you are not on the side of the ones who rule the country you stand no chance. I saw how much money the ones from the opposition got the former years. However what is important is that all the authorities from here get along very well and don't take into account the political parti.

Interviewer: Do you mean there are no conflicts between representatives of different parties?

Eugen Cernescu: No, they never occur. We get along because our only aim is to help the people.

Interviewer: The members of the council from Tomești form part of different parties. What are these parties? Is it hard to take a decision at the council meetings?

Eugen Cernescu: Four of the members are from PSD, two from PD and the rest are one from each parti existent. When we all gather to take some decisions, even if the opinions are divided, they are taken in the peoples favour. I don't think that any of the members of council wants what's bad for the community. If we have a project we start a debate. Even if one of them says "no" to a project that is in favour of the community I think he does it only from ambition.

Interviewer: Thank you for your time. I wish you a lot of success in realizing all your projects.

Although the mayor says there are a lot of problems to be solved and that he still has to do a lot for his electors Eugen Cernescu is praised by the villagers. Some people have been asked what they think about their mayor and they all said he is an extraordinary person, who cares a lot for them. "He is a hard working man. He has modernized the school, the roads, the bridges, has installed waste-paper bins on the streets and built benches so that the elderly people have where to sit, rest and talk to each other." While waiting for some better times, we would add, for some programs and investments which could make this place more like Europe if not even Europe of the third millennium itself.

ANDRA ANDREEA ANTON
Liceul "William Shakespeare" Timișoara

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Interview with M.Eugen Cernescu, Mayor of Tomești

We have tried but it was not possible

Being conscient what the problems are and the impossibility of getting them fixed. Starting a project and the hard way that follows till finishing it. This thing happens a lot in the rural spaces from Romania. We can easily draw the attention of the authorized people who deal with this kind of problems by presenting the case of Tomești village situated in Timiș county. For this we have talked to the mayor Eugen Cernescu. This is what we have found out.

Interviewer: How is the system of education organised here?

Eugen Cernescu: In every village that belongs to Tomești we have kinder gardens and primary schools. From the 5th grade till the 8th grade pupils have to come here, and after that they go to high schools in the near towns.

Interviewer: So children have to come every day from their village to Tomești?

Eugen Cernescu: Yes, after finishing the 4th grade they come here.

Interviewer: How do they get here?

Eugen Cernescu: The town hall has a school bus, which brings and takes them back daily.

Interviewer: How many pupils come here from these villages?

Eugen Cernescu: There are almost 60 pupils divided on more than one route.

Interviewer: There is only one school bus on all this routes?

Eugen Cernescu: Yes and I suspect that here you are going to tell me that it is kind of crowded. You are right, but for the moment we have no funds to get one more bus. The one we have goes two or three times on the route. It is kind of uncomfortable but there is no other solution. However I have to say the number of born children has decreased a lot.

Interviewer: Why is this happening?

Eugen Cernescu: There are a lot of causes for this. Most of the people here are old. A lot of adults or youngsters leave the place because they have no working places. Each one has left to find himself a job in a near town and even in other countries.

Interviewer: How do you intend to solve this problem?

Eugen Cernescu: We have talked a lot about the development of tourism and agro-turism here. Only this means the modernization of roads, infrastructure and a lot more. At the moment we are taking care of these problems we are passing through a process of modernization. The possibility of having a mountain resort here has also been discussed.

Interviewer: What was done exactly for this project?

Eugen Cernescu: We have had a series of meetings with people and firms willing to invest here. We have talked to them but you can never trust a person till you get to know him very well.



Interviewer: I would like you to talk a little about the system of public illumination. Why lights are kept on only for an hour every evening, from 10 o'clock until 11 o'clock?

Eugen Cernescu: I have disposed this because of the lack of money. The bill is approximately 40 millions lei a month. We can't afford to pay it and the delays in payment mean money and not only that but we risk remaining without electricity.

Interviewer: There is a project stating that this system of illumination will be modernized. What exactly will be done? Why is this done if the lights are kept off anyway?

Eugen Cernescu: We want to do this because the lights we have now use a lot of energy and the new ones use less energy. In two of the villages they have already been replaced and we have noticed this advantage. They use two times less energy.



Interviewer: A fountain of wide depth is going to be built in Românești village. When will the work at this project start? And what will this mean for the people living here?

Eugen Cernescu: It will start very soon. This fountain will be used in agriculture: irrigation and water for animals. The people from two villages situated one close to the other one will use it. Right now they are using water brought from Tomești through some conducts but this system isn't always working.

Interviewer: In these villages there isn't any sewerage system. Has this problem been taken into consideration?

Eugen Cernescu: We have thought of this from the year 2001. We need 1 million euros for this and this sum can only be obtained from the SAPARD organization. The project has been made and forwarded to them. At this particular moment we are waiting for our turn to come. We have been situated on the 49th place and now we are on the 20th.

Interviewer: How long will you have to wait for the money?

Eugen Cernescu: We are hoping that we will get the money this year. In only a year we have went up twenty places.

Interviewer: From what I understood agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers here. What are they working the field with?

Eugen Cernescu: They use their own machines and those who don't have borrow from the others. For example only in Românești village people have a number of 54 caterpillar tractors.

Interviewer: Doesn't the town hall have in its possession machines to borrow to people that need them?

Eugen Cernescu: The town hall has only one caterpillar tractor, which is used for internal issues. In this area we didn't have old SMA-s in order for the town hall to get that machines after the liquidation.

Interviewer: Is there a doctor and pharmacy in every village, which belongs to Tomești?

Eugen Cernescu: No, we have a doctor only here in Tomești. We don't have a dentist and the pharmacy here is opened only two or three hours a day. I am aware that this is a problem, we have tried to solve it but with no result.

Interviewer: How was this problem dealt with and why hasn't it been solved?

ANDRA ANDREEA ANTON
"William Shakespeare" High School Timișoara