

## INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARK BIODIVERSITY

### IMPLICAREA VOLUNTARILOR ÎN DEZVOLTAREA BIODIVERSITĂȚII PARCURILOR

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**Abstract.** *The Faculty of Horticulture from USAMV Iasi, SC APAVITAL SA Iasi, the Environmental Protection Agency Iasi, the Technological High School "Petru Poni" and the County Library "Gh. Asachi" Iasi had as permanent concern the realization of projects that support the educational collaboration in the community of Iasi by establishing a close connection between students, students and teachers. Noting the benefits of this link between the educational and scientific area and non-formal development, this partnership approach offers the possibility of achieving a high level of technical and didactic performance. The main practical activities carried out within the projects concern: technologies of plant cultivation: planting and care, the importance of the concept of biodiversity and of the dendrological parks in the city of Iasi, advocacy for environmental protection.*

**Key words:** Volunteering, biodiversity, dendrological parks

**Rezumat.** *Facultatea de Horticultură din cadrul USAMV Iași, SC APAVITAL SA Iași, Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Iași, Liceul Tehnologic „Petru Poni” și Biblioteca Județeană „Gh. Asachi” Iași au avut ca preocupare permanentă realizarea unor proiecte care să susțină colaborarea educațională în comunitatea ieșeană prin realizarea unei legături strânse între elevi, studenți și profesori. Remarcând beneficiile acestei legături între zona educațională și științifică și de dezvoltare non-formală, demersul partenerial de față, oferă posibilitatea atingerii unui nivel ridicat de performanță tehnică și didactică. Principalele activități practice desfășurate în cadrul proiectelor vizează: tehnologiile de cultivare a unor plante: plantare și îngrijire, importanța conceptului de biodiversitate și a parcurilor dendrologice din orașul Iași, pledoarie pentru protejarea mediului.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** voluntariat, biodiversitate, parcuri

## INTRODUCTION

Volunteering is a form of learning through practical action, which can generate knowledge and skills.

Not being a rigid and formalized process, volunteering has the charm of flexibility and free choice of the volunteer regarding most of the characteristics of his activity.

That is why many times volunteering has become the way in which young people become acquainted in the most concrete way possible with their future profession.

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Volunteering emphasizes the practical side of the learning system, a side that many young people choose to experience by engaging in such activities.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The project "Library of the trees" materializes the collaboration between institutions in the literary - scientific and educational fields, having multiple cultural, educational and professional valences.

We intend to offer students from the high schools of Iasi, students and graduates of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "Ion Ionescu de Brad" in Iași, the Faculty of Horticulture and the Technological High School "Petru Poni" Iași the opportunity to affirm professional and career guidance through the knowledge and development of teamwork skills, within the non-formal education and development offered by the "Gh. Asachi" County Library Iasi.

The direct target group is made up of students from the environmental protection profile, grades IX - XII, from the Technological High School "Petru Poni", students of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "Ion Ionescu de Brad" Faculty of Horticulture.

The stages of the project, in the third edition, aimed:

- Cataloging the trees and shrubs identified in the previous edition
- Preparation of tree monitoring records
- Information sessions with students and teachers from the "Petru Poni" High School in Iași:
- Bibliographic study on legends related to the species of trees and shrubs identified
- Elaboration of the booklet "ApaVital Iași dendrological park"

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The first activity was carried out within the Technological High School "Petru Poni" in Iași, where the students from the profile "Natural resources and environmental protection" participated in the lecture "SWOT analysis at APAVITAL Iași", supported by the volunteer of the library Marinela Bucătaru from the Faculty of Horticulture .

The meeting represented a plea for another way of protecting the environment by developing recreational places (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 Lecture "SWOT Analysis at APAVITAL Iasi"

For the European Day of Parks, the County Library „Gh. Asachi ” Iași and "ApaVital" Iași organized in partnership with the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" Ion Ionescu de la Brad "from Iasi, the Faculty of Horticulture and the Environmental Protection Agency of Iasi, a presentation within the " Tree Library "project (fig. 2).

Marinela Bucătaru, a student at the Faculty of Horticulture, presented the landscape model of the future ApaVital dendrological park.

Ecologist Ramona Ciobanu spoke to us about Biodiversity Day (May 22) and European Day of National Parks.

Eng. Roxana Anghel from the Faculty of Horticulture presented together with the bibliographer presented the following stage of this project: finding and developing stories and stories about trees and shrubs identified in the previous edition.



**Fig. 2** European Parks Day

At the meeting held at the Faculty of Horticulture, in the monitoring laboratory, engineer Roxana Anghel coordinated the students from the profile of Environmental Protection and together with the representative of the Environmental Agency they deciphered the way of cataloging the trees and shrubs identified in the previous edition in the dendrological park C. APAVITAL (fig. 3).

The students who will be volunteers of the library at the following events, will explain to the students from the profile "Natural resources and environmental

protection" of the Technological High School "Petru Poni" in Iasi, how to collaborate in the future stages of the project.



**Fig. 3** Cataloging of trees and shrubs

County Library „Gh. Asachi "Iasi organized the activity "Tree Library" - Interinstitutional collaboration in projects - exchange of good practices, which was held at the "Petru Poni" High School in Iași (fig. 4)



**Fig. 4** Interinstitutional collaboration in projects - exchange of good practices

The students from the profile "Natural resources and environmental protection", the 10th grade actively contributed to this meeting with questions and personal opinions. The representatives of S.C. ApaVital Iași and the Agency for Environmental Protection Iași pointed out the important moments of the collaboration with the County Library „Gh. Asachi” Iași.

The activity "Day of Biodiversity and European Day of Parks" took place in the hall of celebrations at ApaVital Iași.

The representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency of Iasi spoke about the importance of biodiversity and the impact of the transformations that pollution can bring on man, health and life.

The representative of ApaVital Iasi briefly described the ways of treating and purifying the water from the subordinate stations of the company and shared promotional materials (fig. 5).



Fig. 5 Biodiversity Day and European Parks Day

European Parks Day is an initiative launched in 1999 by the EUROPARC Federation and marks May 24, 1909, when Sweden announced the establishment of the first national parks in Europe, with the aim of sounding an alarm in protecting the nature overwhelmed by the wave of technology.

The representatives of the County Library „Gh. Asachi "Iași together with the Faculty of Horticulture and" Petru Poni "High School of Iași presented the previous stages of the activities within the project" Library of Trees "and the activities that took place in the dendrological park, finalized by editing an informative booklet (fig. 6).



Biblioteca arborilor  
*Parcuri dendrologice din Iași*

## Parcul dendrologic ApaVital Iași



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Fig. 6 Information booklet cover

### CONCLUSIONS

1. These activities within the project increased the scientific and cultural horizon of the students and students by knowing and deepening the accumulated knowledge.
2. They have developed communication skills.
3. New, contemporary scientific techniques have been developed
4. The circles and activities organized within this project are a way to capitalize on the institutional collaboration between the library, universities and high schools of Iasi with educational benefits to the whole community.

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