

**”Virgil Madgearu” Economic High School – Galati is involved, for the second consecutive year in PULCHRA International Project**

"Virgil Madgearu" Economic High School Galati is a member of the PULHRA school network, a network of 50 participating schools belonging to a number of 10 European Union countries (Greece, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania).

In the school year 2021-2022, the title of the PULCHRA project is “**Building community centers for urban and collaborative learning through research and activation**” and has the research topic “**From waste disposal to efficient use of resources. The circular economy on an urban scale**”. The aim of the project is to explore the concept of open school and to encourage science education.

The second year of the project brought a new challenge for the team of “Virgil Madgearu Economic High School” Galați, namely the involvement of students in selective collection and research activities, in order to identify sustainable methods of waste recycling.

The implementation of the project research topic "**Is** **waste a current problem or a resource of the future?**" aimed to meet the following objectives:

-increasing the level of education for the environment, with positive effects on the personal development and social involvement of students;

- raising awareness of the importance of selective waste collection and recycling;

-reducing the amount of waste from landfills, which massively pollutes the environment, destroying people's health and creating a desolate image of cities;

-development of cooperation between the school environment and the local community;

-students’ personal development by invigorating the civic spirit and community mentality.

In this context, "Virgil Madgearu" Economic High School Galați carried out, in partnership with Carrefour Hypermarket, a large selective waste collection action on November 19th, 2021. The Carrefour Hypermarket launched **PET PAYMENT**, as part of the circular economy program **We put a price on Plastic**, and the students collected 1000 pets, for which they were rewarded with just as many apples.

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The Pulchra project continued, with the involvement of participating students and teachers in a research course, organized on December 3, 2021, at the Faculty of Engineering, Department of Materials and Environmental Engineering, within "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați. Many research activities were carried out that captivated the students, who were interested in developing the research topic "**Studies on the possibility of recovery of vegetable waste".**

Thus, the participating students collected various vegetable waste, weighed them and used the balance in the laboratory, subjected them to the drying process by two methods: oven drying and natural drying, and finally determined the moisture percentage of the biological material they collected.

The next stage of the research process was to crush the vegetable waste and prepare the soil that will be sown with wheat. The aim was to establish the usefulness of vegetable waste in the process of germination and future development of plants.

Following a debate which aimed to identify the benefits of recycling for the environment, students became aware of how to recover plant waste and its usefulness for the urban environment.

On December 22, 2021, the first Open Event of the project was launched, an activity that took place online and enjoyed the participation and appreciation of all project partners.

THE PROJECT CONTINUES!

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