

CSR activities report

2021

In 2021, the CSR activities continued under the prospects of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The vaccination campaign commenced in January 2021 and starting June 1st, a series of relaxation measures were implemented at national level, namely:

- the mandatory wearing of the protective mask in public open spaces was lifted;
- allowing the organization of private outdoor events (with maximum 70 participants) and indoor (with maximum 50 participants) - limit not applicable if the participants hold a vaccination certificate.
- increase of hotels and restaurants indoor capacity.

The 4th pandemic wave stroke in October followed by more restrictive measures implemented to contain the virus:

- The access to all organized activities and events was allowed only to those who held a green certificate.
- Some social activities were prohibited, and other activities were allowed up to 50% of the maximum capacity of the space.
- Obligation to wear the protective mask, in all closed and open public spaces, as well as at work and in public transport.

Given the pandemic context, the 2021 CSR strategy focused on continuing the impactful activities for the community started in 2020 consisting of reducing the violence among pupils in Corbu school through the grant awarded by BSOG (UBUNTU project) and running the pilot project with the local NGO Mare Nostrum for improved measures to protect Vadu beach (VADUabil project).

1. UBUNTU project implemented by Corbu school

The activities under the UBUNTU project implemented by Corbu school with a 12.000 euro grant from BSOG resumed at the end of 2020. The project team in Corbu school and BSOG agreed a way to move forward with the project under the pandemic by adapting the activities to the restrictions of the pandemic.

The following activities have taken place in 2021:

- 26 counselling sessions with pupils (online only) from grades V to VI and VII to VIII, with an average of 12 people per counselling session.
- 6 counselling sessions with parents (online only) on addressing the parent – child relationship.
- 3 counselling sessions with teachers (online only) on addressing conflict prevention and resolution, mitigating unpleasant situations that might appear between students, students and teachers, teachers and teachers, parents and parents
- 4-day training for teachers on how to increase learning among pupils through understanding their emotions, awareness and self-awareness (two face to face sessions and additional online support). 20 teachers attended the training.

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- Online contest of cartoons prepared by students on the topic “a friendly school” meant to propose solutions for bullying and aggressivity. 11 children attended the activity.
- Summer school (physical attendance) organized in July and August for three weeks, three days a week, consisted of:
 - o three personal development workshops to enhance students’ self-awareness.
 - o three creative workshops to develop students’ artistic skills: t-shirts drawing with positive messaging, painting by numbers, string art boards, psychological movies.
- Two-day workshop and theatre play (physical presence) under the guidance of a certified trainer. The activity took place in August with the attendance of 10 students.
- Celebration of nonviolence week in all Corbu school units through posters and exhibitions.
- Developing students’ interest for cultural activities by watching emotions themed movies during the 2020-2021 school year (physical presence). The activities were hosted by Corbu Cultural Centre.

A joint meeting with Corbu school project teachers and BSOG took place on March 7th to discuss the progress of the project and the challenges faced until that moment. It appeared that the online counselling sessions did not have the expected outcome among the targeted audience due to the online communication barrier and the special requirements needed for counselling. Lifting of the social distancing restrictions was awaited to change the counselling sessions from online to face to face. On the other side, the training for teachers that took place in January and February 2021 had a great impact on teachers who felt better equipped in their interaction with pupils in classes.

The second tranche of money (30% of the total amount) was paid to the school in May for the activities planned further.

The third and last tranche of money (30% of the total amount) was paid to the school in November for the last activities planned on the project.

The project was completed on January 29th, 2022.

2. Advocating for improved measures to protect Vadu beach

In 2021 we started the collaboration with Mare Nostrum NGO, the main environmental NGOs working for protecting Romanian shores, on implementing a string of actions to protect Vadu beach and develop a plan for the sustainable development of the area.

1. The first actions envisaged by the project were two **monitoring session on Vadu beach of marine litter** that took place in April and November with volunteers from Mare Nostrum and BSOG.

A methodology applied at EU level was used that involved collecting of the marine litter, assessing it by category type and marking in a monitoring sheet the code type and quantity over an area of 100 meters from the water line and in parallel with the sea.

Mare Nostrum used the data to generate the profile of the beach and to portray the type of tourists that prefer Vadu beach. The data collected from Vadu beach was integrated into a study Mare Nostrum was working for the entire shore area that will be submitted to the local and national environmental authorities at the end of the year. It was the first time Mare Nostrum included Vadu beach in their regular monitoring, thanks to BSOG. The report will be uploaded to the Marine Litter Watch platform,

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developed by the European Environment Agency, and EmodNet (the European database) thus helping to strengthen Europe's knowledge base and provide support for environmental policymaking.

The project provides two such actions during the year, one in Spring and one in Autumn.

Key numbers of the first monitoring session:

- 18 participants
- 100 meters of beach
- 326 marine litter recorded and disposed in an appropriate manner
- 270 pieces of artificial polymeric material
- 2 pieces of rubber
- 11 of textile
- 4 pieces of paper
- 4 pieces of wood
- 19 pieces of metal
- 12 pieces of glass
- 4 others
- 45 pieces of rope (most common marine litter)

Figure 1 Pictures from the marine litter monitoring session in April 2021

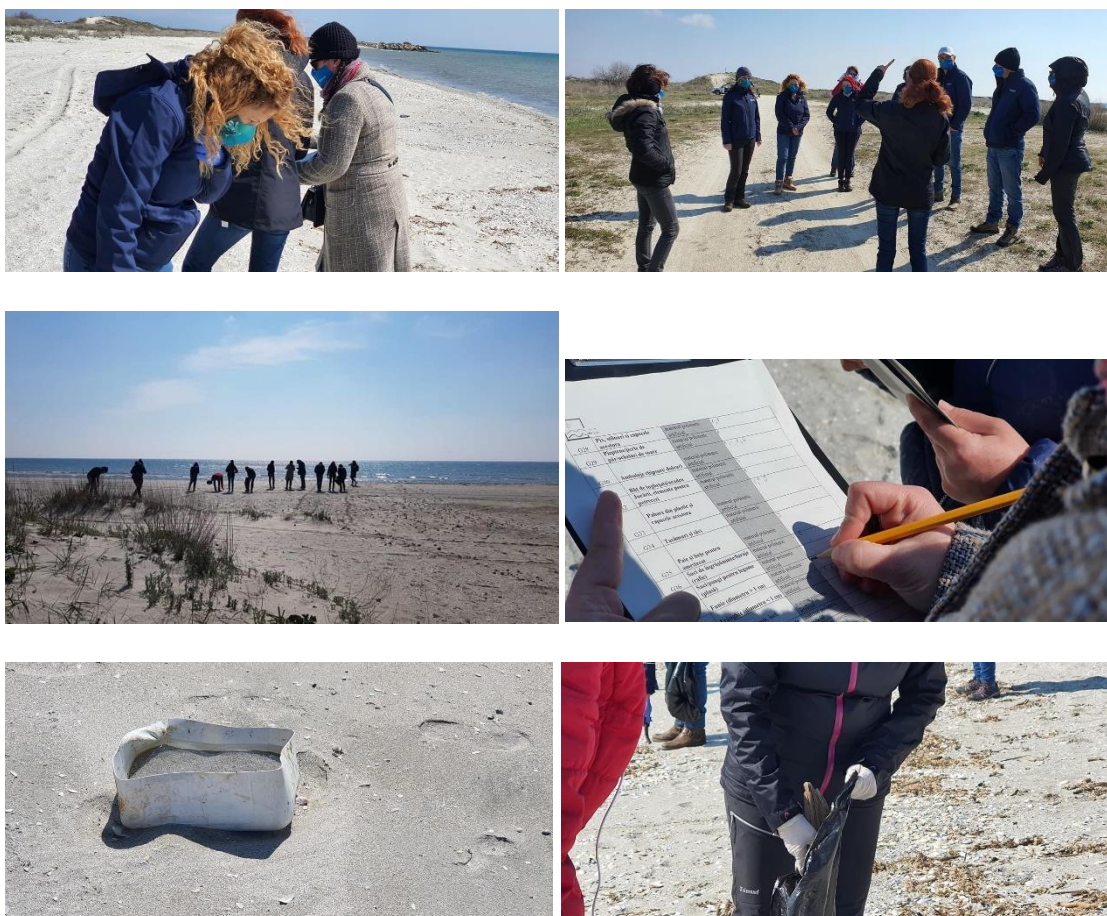


Figure 2 Social media post by Mare Nostrum announcing the marine litter monitoring session on Vadu beach_16 April 2021



2. The second activity envisaged was **drafting a strategy/plan for the sustainable development** of the Vadu area together with the main stakeholders in the area by organizing a series of round tables where their views were put for debate.

The first roundtable was a hybrid meeting (online and face to face) that took place on April 23rd in Tulcea. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to presenting the view of the participants (Danube Delta Reserve, WWF, Mare Nostrum) related to the specifics of the area, debate and recommendations, and the second was a SWOT analysis of the Vadu area, focused on fishing and tourism, social and environment.

The event was attended by 12 online participants and 10 face to face participants.

The pandemic restrictions did not allow organizing the remaining two stakeholders meeting in 2021 and were postponed for 2022.

Figure 3 First round table meeting with Vadu main stakeholders in Tulcea_23 April 2021



3. The third activity involved conducting a **public information campaign to raise awareness** among tourists about maintaining cleanliness on the beach and the importance of the Vadu area, as part of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The campaign covered the period June-September.

The campaign took place in 2 ways:

- Online - posts on the social media groups dedicated to those who visit the Vadu area, but also Corbu, to increase the number of those who receive the information. The messages used were adapted to the summer period and to the specifics of their activity on the beach.
- Offline though face to face discussion with the volunteers and by giving away braded packages (4500 pcs) containing garbage bags, coasters and ecologic ash trays with the campaign message. The garbage bags have the role of reminding the tourists to collect all the waste produced during their stay in Vadu, and the materials with the message will be designed in such a way as to be seen as a souvenir from the sea. Also, between July and August 2021, 9 days of direct information campaign took place every other week with the help of the organization's volunteers.

The two fish restaurants in the area were involved in the offline campaign to share the souvenirs to the customers together with the restaurant bill.

The offline campaign was well received among tourists which congratulated the volunteers for the initiative.

Figure 4 Online post by Mare Nostrum raising awareness about Vadu beach's value and importance of preservation_June 14th

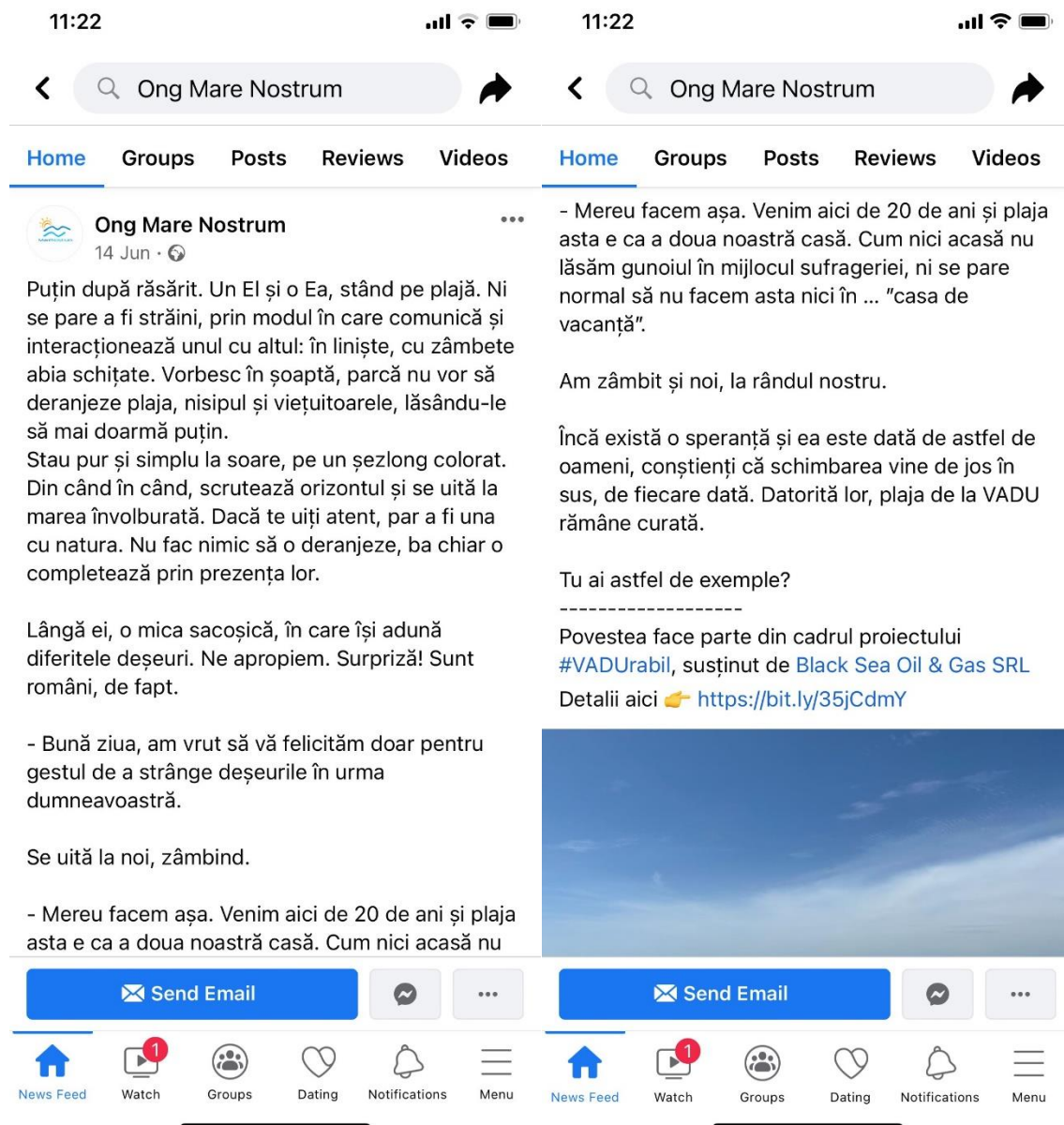


Figure 5 Online post by Mare Nostrum on raising awareness about Vadu beach's value and importance of preservation_July 4th

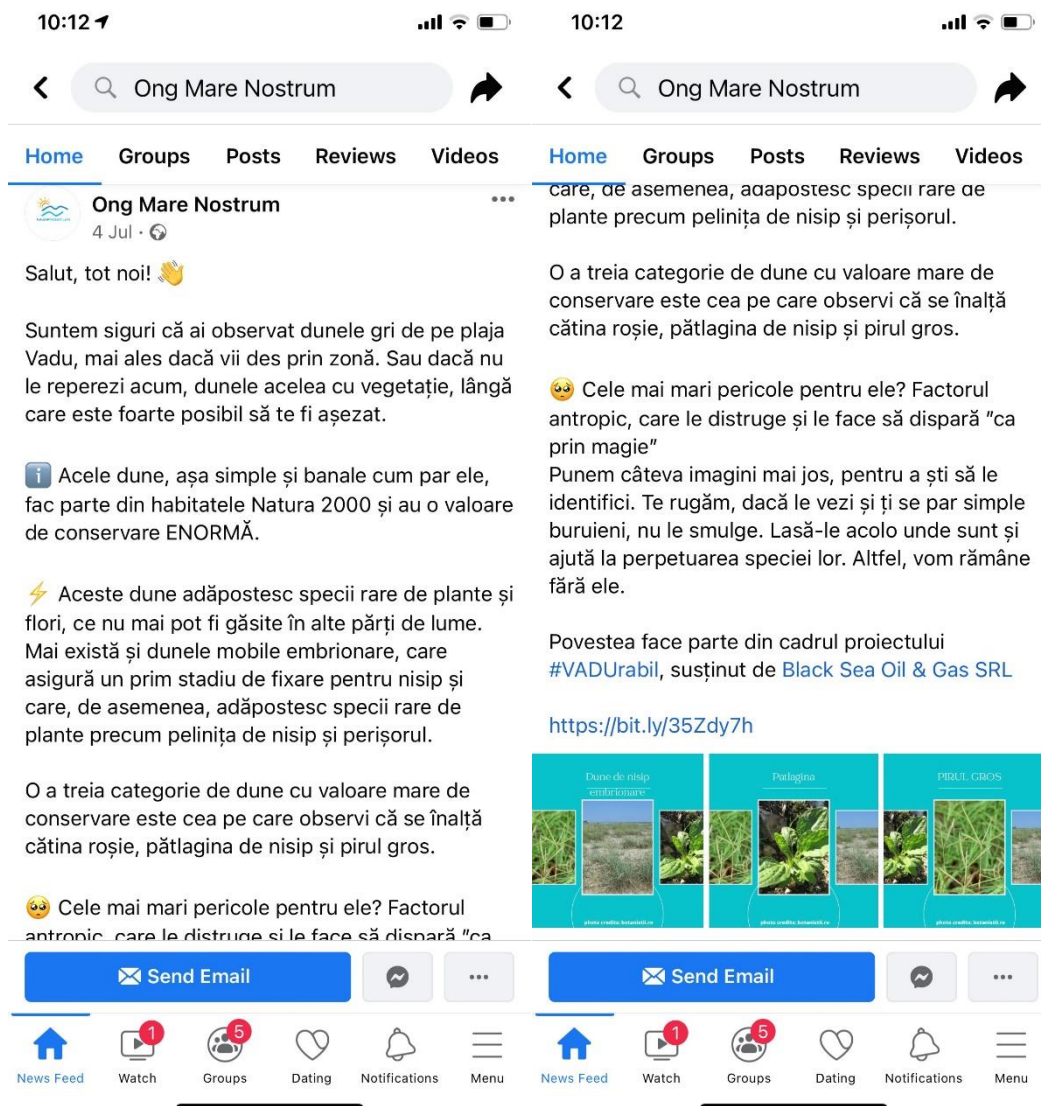
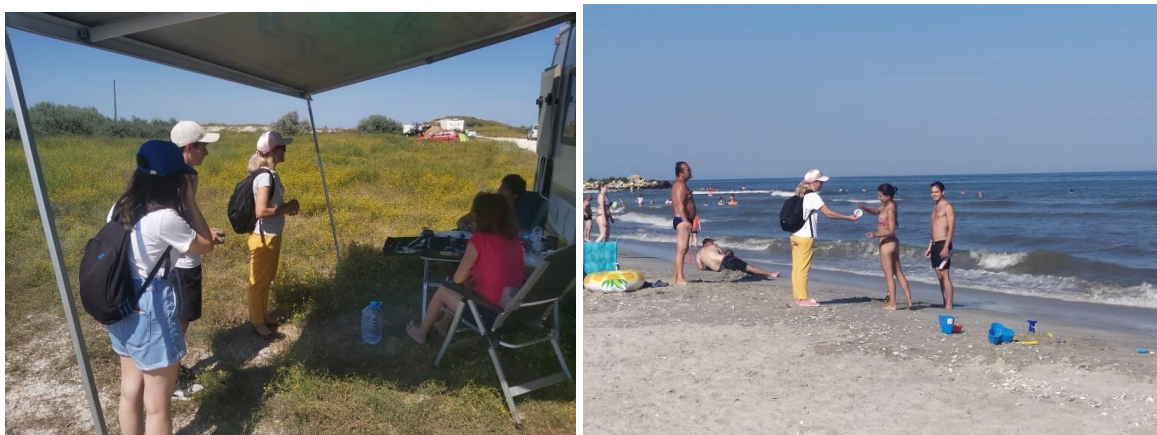


Figure 6 Face-to-face information campaign on Vadu beach_8 July 2021



3. Christmas presents for Vadu school children

2021 was the fifth year in a row when BSOG was Santa for Vadu school pupils. The pandemic restrictions did not allow direct interaction with the children, the hand over being made by teachers during the Christmas celebration at school.

The presents consisted of game adequate to the age group (Montessori logarithmic game for kindergarten and chess game for primary school), sweets, hand painted globes, personalized MGD items. All were delighted to see that BSOG Santa reached them again.

32 pupils of the primary school and 11 pupils from the kindergarten were the beneficiaries of the presents.



Figure 7 BSOG presents offered to Vadu school children (kindergarten and primary school)