

CSR activities report

2023

In 2023 BSOG continued its involvement in local communities, continuing its partnership with the NGO Mare Nostrum. Thus, along with NGO Mare Nostrum, BSOG implemented “VADUrabil! 3.0.” The project placed a strong emphasis on personal development for young people by providing them with access to non-formal education.

The first two editions of the **VADUrabil! project** were based on the elaboration of a sustainable development strategy, meetings with representatives of the local community, information of tourists coming to the area, with the aim of increasing information and awareness about the benefits of the area, but also how the area can be developed in a sustainable way, in harmony with the environment and with minimal impact.

Thus, as in many rural areas, the need for further community development has been identified across both age groups, adults and children. The latter representing the change for the better of the community. VADUrabil! 3.0 aimed to continue the personal development of these young people, future pillars of the community, who having easy access to non-formal education, could better define their character and set the right landmarks in life.

The project consisted of several activities:

- Trainer Camp
- #60minutesforDelta
- Information Campaign #VADUrabil
- Annual Christmas Party

In addition, in May 2023 BSOG officially committed to **rehabilitate DC83 Corbu Vadu road and Scolii street** in Vadu, 7.6km in total, by signing a collaboration protocol with Corbu Commune and starting the design and permitting phases. DC83 Corbu-Vadu is the only connection between the villages of Corbu and of Vadu and is currently in an advanced state of degradation. The most recent significant consolidation has been performed more than 15 years ago. The project, with a **total estimated cost of approximately \$4 million** was scheduled to be completed by May 2025.

1. Trainer Camp

Fifteen students from five rural communities in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve area were selected to participate in the Trainer Camp organized by BSOG and NGO Mare Nostrum. Accompanied by teachers, students joined Mare Nostrum volunteers in an intensive program designed to turn them into trainers for the Danube Delta.

The camp focused on equipping participants with the skills needed to lead educational workshops in their schools. Through interactive sessions, they explored team building, public speaking, communication techniques, and non-formal education methods.

The 5 participating communities:

- Vadu
- Corbu
- Jurilovca
- Sălcioara
- Sfântu Gheorghe

Figure 1 Pictures from Trainer Camp



2. #60minutesforDelta

Within the #60minutesforDelta initiative, implemented under the aegis of the VADUrabil 2.0 project, a series of educational workshops were organized, aimed at contributing to raising the level of environmental awareness and responsibility among young people. The activities were developed on the basis of concepts and ideas generated during the summer camp, both by the young participants from the five local communities and Mare Nostrum volunteers.

The workshops were structured on modern pedagogical principles and integrated non-formal education methods to facilitate an interactive, dynamic and engaging learning process. Participants were actively involved, providing extremely positive feedback, and the information provided was accessible and well received.

A significant development of this edition was the integration of two new communities - Ceamurlia de Jos and Lunca - which, although not previously involved in the project, showed a high level of interest and remarkable openness from teachers, school management and pupils.

Also, all participating schools were invited to apply to join the European Blue Schools Network, with full details of the application process and logistical support for interested teachers. As an extension of the initiative, an educational-fun workshop was organized in January 2024 for preschool children in Vadu.

Figure 2 Pictures from the #60minutesforDelta activity



3. Information Campaign #VADUrabil

The information campaign continued in 2023. Mare Nostrum volunteers interacted directly with visitors on the beach offering them the "souvenir from Vadu" - garbage bags, coasters, and portable ashtrays, while discussing with them about the uniqueness of Vadu area. Also, five informational panels were installed to guide tourists on responsible behavior, and two dolphin-shaped plastic waste bins were placed at the beach entrance.

Figure 2 Pictures from the #60minutesforVadu activity



4. Christmas party for the children of Vadu

BSOG ended the VADUrabil! 3.0 project in 2023 with a Christmas party organized in Constanta for preschool and primary school children from Vadu. The event took place at a "mini adventure park" in Constanta, where children had the opportunity to explore the playground freely and enjoy the activities available.

Figure 4 Pictures from the Christmas Party



5. Corbu Vadu Road Rehabilitation

May 2023 BSOG officially committed to rehabilitate DC83 Corbu Vadu road and Scolii street in Vadu, 7.6km in total, by signing a collaboration protocol with Corbu Commune and starting the design and permitting phases. DC83 Corbu-Vadu is the only connection between the villages of Corbu and of Vadu and is currently in an advanced state of degradation. The most recent significant consolidation has been performed more than 15 years ago. The project, with a **total estimated cost of approximately \$4 million** was scheduled to be completed by May 2025.