



# Community for Sustainable Change: The Buen Vivir Festival in Turnu Măgurele

In the heart of Turnu Măgurele, a small town in Romania, a group of teachers, led by the dynamic Corina Beșu, embarked on a mission: building a sustainable, culturally diverse and close-knit community.

This is the story of the Buen Vivir Festival—a school-driven initiative that identified a need, took impactful actions, set clear goals, learned important lessons, and celebrated remarkable success.

## The Context

Turnu Măgurele, like many communities, faced the pressing issues of environmental sustainability, cultural diversity, and community cohesion. Recognising the need for change, Corina Beșu identified a gap in the integration of core values such as peace, social relations, and nature within the city's community.

The challenge lied in addressing these issues while actively involving a large variety of citizens in the process.



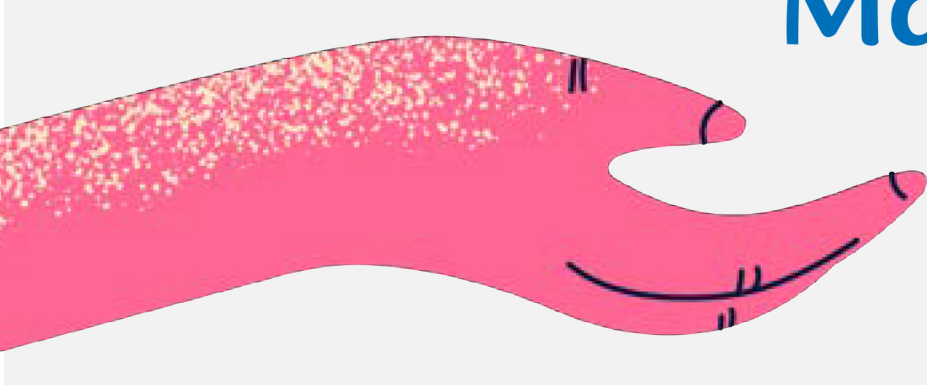
## The Initiative

Corina Beșu, a symbol of Buen Vivir herself, started from the roots. She transformed the Mircea cel Bătrân School into a stage for celebrating strong human relationships and their integration with nature.

This vision materialised in the form of the Buen Vivir Festival. Corina gathered a passionate group of teachers and students to actively participate in the identification, design, and realisation of the festival.



## Main goals

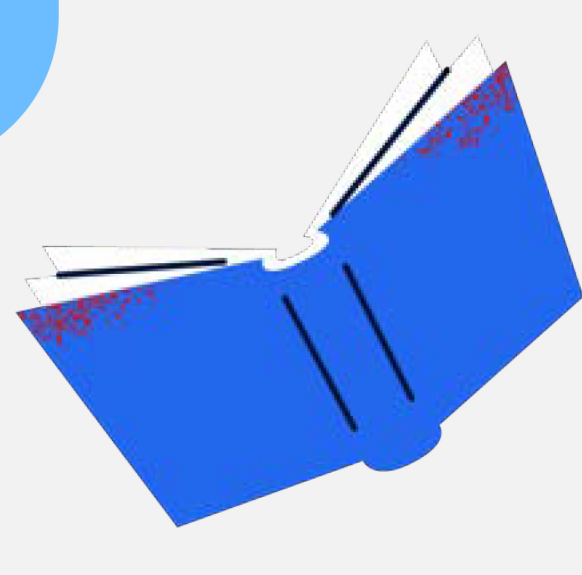


1  
Foster empathy and cooperation skills among youth.

2  
Address the intertwined issues of climate change and peace.

3  
Encourage intentional cooperation and diplomacy.

4  
Empower young learners to be proactive global citizens.



## Key learnings

The journey of organising the Buen Vivir Festival came with valuable lessons for those involved. One major learning was the importance of collaboration.

Facing operational challenges—specifically, serving hundreds of people without plastic in a school without a canteen—Corina and her team leveraged partnerships within the community. They engaged locals for reusable dishes and collaborated with a nearby kindergarten for cooking, showcasing the power of collective problem-solving.



## Success and impact

The inaugural Buen Vivir Festival in April 2023 surpassed all expectations. Over 500 participants, including students, parents, local authorities, and citizens, engaged in a three-day celebration with dance, music, theatre, exhibitions, lectures and gastronomy. The success of the event inspired the school to organise a second edition in October 2023, solidifying the festival as a pillar of the school's sustainability policy.

