

# Chapter 2

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## *Visiting the Hellenic National Meteorological Service*

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### ***Summary***

A field trip in the Hellenic National Meteorological Service took place on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2018, in order to have there an outdoor sciences lesson and participants were 30 students from classes A, B and C. The Hellenic National Meteorological Service (HNMS) is a government agency responsible for making weather forecasts and observations for Greece and its mission is to cover all the meteorological and climatological needs of the country. The aim of the visit was for our students to see and learn about the instruments and the methods that scientists use in order to give a weather forecast every day ,which is very important for our lives.

## **Name of the activity**

Visiting the Hellenic National Meteorological Service

## **Introduction**

This activity is important, because students learn how nature works. How people “read” nature's behaviour and most important they learn about thermometres, reading thermometres, measuring units of temperature and how to identify positive and negative Celsius degrees.

## **Learning objectives**

- Observe, describe, locate and interpret landscapes.
- Learn about the history of meteorology.
- Identify the measuring instruments and relevant methodology.
- Realize the importance of weather and climate in our lives.
- Realize the importance of weather forecast in various activities:  
e.g. navigation, agriculture, facing natural disasters.
- Understand how a meteorological station works.
- Work individually to solve problems.
- Promote team work.
- Contribute to the implementation of the European project

“Outdoor Learning – Real Learning”

## **Resources**

Maps , Atlas, Meteorological instruments ( thermometers measuring internal – external temperature), a presentation.

## **Activity**

### **Step 1:**

We visited the Hellenic National Meteorological Service and we had a guide showing us the meteorological maps, the climate Atlas , and explaining us about satellites and meteorological radars used in order to collect data.

### **Step 2:**

We observed the old and new meteorological instruments situated outdoors in the Hellenic National Meteorological Service and we learned how each one of them works and what it measures (e.g. rain, snow, humidity, wind and temperature).

### **Step 3:**

We were divided in teams and were given instructions how to read the measurements of some meteorological instruments and draw conclusions about the weather of this day.

### **Step 4:**

We watched an interesting presentation and we discussed students question related to weather, climate and meteorology.

### **Comments from the learners' surveys**

Students showed a great interest to see and understand how the instruments work and they seemed to understand why meteorology is so important in our lives. Their engagement in the activities and the questions to the teachers also showed how much they liked the topic. They also said they felt happy having a lesson not at school as usual and working with each other, especially with students from other classes.

### **Final remarks**

As a sciences teacher of these classes I was glad to see the students enjoying their outdoor lesson. They participated in the activities with more interest as usual and even the ones with more learning difficulties made a good effort. They also gained knowledge that would be difficult for them to understand only by reading about it in the books. Finally, it was a field trip , where students were comfortable, relaxed and working well with each other without any problems.

### **Supplementary material**

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