

# ERASMUS+ ROOTS

## ISSUE 2

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## From the North to the South



## From Scandinavia to the Mediterranean Sea

After the winter meeting in cold Finland we moved far to the South, to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. The second project meeting was scheduled for Limassol so after a month break full of Christmas cookies and New Years' Resolutions we met again, this time in Cyprus.

Unfortunately it was quite hard to find suitable dates for all the partner schools and we could not take advantage of the period when traditional feasts in Cyprus are held, some teams were busy at that time. Anyway, after some freezing days in Naantali it was really nice to warm ourselves on the sun and enjoy a bit nicer temperatures! Although we had some windy days in Limassol,



we could see some sun, too. The main topic of this meeting was "Immigration, emigration, movement of people" and besides that we focused on our future in a seminar "Next generation", played games of our ancestors, tasted meals and snacks and other goodies from national cuisine of our partners and above

all spent a week with our friends from Cyprus, Finland, Spain, Turkey and Italy. Our second meeting started at school where the Cypriot students showed a performance of their traditions and music, we went deep in details of the meeting, took a look at the photos from the previous meeting in Finland and got ready for an exciting week in Cyprus.

Our trip was a bit longer as we had to stay overnight in Prague first and then we flew via Vienna to Larnaca. The flight took some three hours and on Tuesday afternoon we landed in Cyprus. We took a bus to Limassol and then finally met the host families, the Cypriot students and teachers. The meeting could start.

### Immigration, emigration

The main topic of the meeting, we tried to search for information why people come to our countries and why the others left it, how the composition of people in our countries changed throughout centuries. The students again made some interviews with their grandparents to learn what it was like in their childhood and made short films and presentations. The Cypriot leader prepared a questionnaire for all the partners and we asked our students, worked out the results of the survey and made a powerpoint presentation. Later, the Cypriot teachers organised a workshop for the students where they played an interactive game focused on this topic. This made them think what it would be like to leave the country and start living somewhere else.



### Games of our ancestors

For all our project meetings we planned an activity called "Games of our ancestors", we will practise games that our grandparents used to play when they were young. Maybe some games will look funny, maybe too simple, maybe too ridiculous, who knows? But this is also a part of our history and our traditions. In Finland the students played some traditional Finnish games based on throwing a piece of wood towards a stick, now the p.E. teachers prepared some common games



we probably know from our countries from our childhood. Teams pulled a rope to show they are stronger than their opponents, they ran with a spoon in their mouth carrying an egg etc.



The games took place in the school gym and nobody cared who the winner was, we all had fun and enjoyed the time. Let's see what games the other partners will teach is, maybe we will find out we have much in common in this field.

## Staying at a host family



The best way how to improve your language and communication skills, learn about typical way of life in a foreign country and experience some unusual events and activities is to stay with a host family. Our students Veronika, Ondrej and Tomas were staying with their hosts and they were really happy with them. And I am sure that for the host family it is also interesting to have a young foreign student at home for a week.

## Traditional "meze"



Our weekend time was devoted to learning about geography and history of Cyprus. On Saturday we visited the Curium Ancient Theatre, the Stone of Romios (birthplace of Venus) and the "UNESCO" city centre of Paphos and on Sunday our hosts took us to a local natural trail of Kalidonia and to Omodos village. We had an opportunity to taste various Cypriot meals during a big lunch (meze) in a traditional tavern "Stou kyr Yianni".

## Limassol tour

During the project week the students and teachers had enough time to explore the city of Limassol, either with their host families, friends or colleagues, alone or altogether. Despite windy weather particularly the walk along the promenade was nice. For one afternoon a special event was planned - a Limassol tour. A walk tour! The students were divided into several groups and their task was to find most important places in the town according to the list given to them in advance. The teachers had the same plan but we did not rush. We found most of the places but also had some time for some mint tea or a glass of beer in the city centre. And the most important thing was not to tick all the items from the list, but learn about the city, and, of course, spend our time together.

Limassol (or Lemesos) is the second biggest city in Cyprus and the main Cypriot port. The city was founded in 1191 by Richard, the Lion heart.



The Cypriot school is located rather far from the city centre, so we always travelled to school by bus and going for a walk from the school to the city centre during a break was impossible. On that afternoon therefore the students had much time to explore the city. Our walk tour started near the hotel, by the sea, and the first "stop" was the ZOO. Then we strolled through the lanes towards the City Castle and the Old Port. On our way we passed the church, municipality building, the mosque or the market. We also went into the mosque for a while to see it inside. And of course from time to time we also looked at the shop windows to get an idea what souvenirs we should bring from Limassol home.



## Workshops

The project calendar gave our friends from Polemidia Lyceum a tough challenge. The meeting in Naantali finished on 19 December, then all schools had their winter (or Christmas) holidays and soon after that the meeting in Limassol took place. But they managed! They invited interesting guests to talk with the students and teachers about the main topic of the meeting, immigration. Our Cypriot friends organised a workshop for teachers called "Deconstructing stereotypes about immigrants and refugees" and another workshop for students



all odds". The list of workshops can be extended also by a seminar and discussion with a member of European Parliament Office in Cyprus about the role of European institutions. We could learn how European law is created on the European level and how it is implemented in all European Union member states.

## National cuisine

Some sweets, some wafers, some chocolate and as usual garlic spread, our favourite part of the presentation of national cuisine. We could not cook there at school, unfortunately, so everybody brought just something simple to present to the others. We walked round the tables of our partners and tasted some delicious cheese, salami, sweets etc. And the time to taste Cypriot meals was ahead!



## My memories of Cyprus

by Veronika Mrozková

Before I met my hostess in Cyprus, I was so excited about her, but when I arrived, her teacher told me Anthi was in the hospital. So I had to stay at the hotel with the teachers. Next day I saw Anthi and I was very happy to see her. The first day was so peaceful and we all just talked. The other days we had different workshops on immigration and whenever we came back to the hotel after the program, other kids from Turkey were already with me, so I wasn't alone at the hotel. Every day after the program we all met in a cafe or department store and talked to the evening.

I remember that we had the task of taking pictures at important places in Limassol, or winning a game that was setting up various tasks. I also remember wandering in the city of Paphos or hike to the Kalidonia Falls. For the last three days I finally moved to Anthi's home and it was the best thing I could wish, because her parents were nice, her brother was funny and everyone was happy when I taught them something Czech. In Cyprus I very improved my English and I am very happy that I was there and I hope to see people from other countries sometimes again.









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