

NEWSLETTERS – 1

KA229, SCHOOL EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

2018-2020



PARTNERS

*Obchodní akademie s.r.o., Karviná, CZECH REPUBLIC

*Naantalin lukio, Naantali, FINLAND

*Lizarra Ikastola, Estella-Lizarra, SPAIN

*Lykeio Polemidion, Limassol, CYPRUS

*Ipsseoa, Catania, ITALY

*Özel Falez Fen Bilimleri Anadolu Lisesi, Antalya, TURKEY

Foreword:

This project started in September 2018 and it will last in June 2020. Six participating schools from Czech Republic, Turkey, Finland, Spain, Cyprus and Italy have been working and will work on tasks connected with the topic of the project.

Six meetings are scheduled for the period of 2018 – 2020:

*1st meeting in **FINLAND**, December, 13-18, 2018*

*2nd meeting in **CYPRUS**, January, 23-28, 2019*

*3rd meeting in **ITALY**, March 31- April 5, 2019*

*4th meeting in **TURKEY**, October, 2019*

*5th meeting in **CZECH REPUBLIC**, February, 2020*

*6th meeting in **SPAIN**, April, 2020*

Priorities;

HORIZONTAL: Social and educational value of European cultural heritage

HORIZONTAL: Development of relevant and high-quality skills and competences

SCHOOL EDUCATION: Promoting the acquisition of skills and competences

The partners are going to share the responsibilities and tasks. Six topics and six tasks were divided among all the partners according to their choice. Each school will take over the responsibility of one of the topics and one of the tasks and thus the project work will be balanced and each school will be involved in the work equally.

The partners agreed on the following distribution of the topics (1) , tasks (2) and workshops (3):

CZECH REPUBLIC - 1. Music and dance, 2. website, 3. "Living in Erasmus+ world"

ITALY - 1. Traditional cuisine, 2. brochure, 3. "Share the food"

FINLAND - 1. Folk stories, narrations and theatre, 2. facebook page and group, 3. "United in diversity"

SPAIN - 1. Language and its changes, 2. video and photo-documentation, 3. "In or out"

CYPRUS - 1. People (immigration, emigration, movement of people), 2. e-Twinning, 3. "Next generation"

TURKEY - 1. Life in villages and towns, crafts, jobs, 2. newsletters, 3. "Breaking stereotypes"

ALL PARTNERS - Games of our ancestors

The project includes both local activities and mobilities (learning/teaching/training activities). The activities focus on roots and cultural heritage and include topics such as: life in the past, folk stories, music and dance, migration, cuisine or language. During the workshops we will also deal with several European issues.

In this project we are going to achieve the following objectives and concrete results:

1. Development of competences of the participants of the project (communication and language, cultural awareness, creative, digital, social, analytical, and moving)
2. Printed outputs - Book of stories, a brochure about the project, a photobook, newsletters, promotional materials
3. Online outputs - web, facebook page, e-Twinning, e-magazines, logo
4. Development of international cooperation in the partner schools and strengthening the cooperation of the schools with municipalities, libraries, community centres and houses of culture at the local level
5. Breaking stereotypes about other cultures, traditions and lifestyles
6. Extending the knowledge of the partner countries in the field of history, traditions, customs, ways of life, and geography
7. Extending (or gaining) the knowledge about various UNESCO sites.
8. Development of friendship with students and colleagues from partner schools
9. Development of awareness of the European Union issues including Erasmus+ programme
10. Exchange of good practices and methods of work with young people

The participants are students aged 14-19 from six countries from various parts of Europe, from various cultural, social, geographical background, their headmasters, teachers, other school staff and parents. We are going to involve public into our activities, too, particularly responsible people from municipalities, libraries, community centres.

In the activity "Interview with older people" and creating "Book of stories" old people will be involved to share their life experience. Each school will involve at least 30-50 participants in local activities and 15 students in mobilities.

During the activities we will use various methods of work - presentations, workshops, discussions and debates, interviews, excursions, seminars, lectures, role-play activities, intercultural activities etc. We are going to use methods of both formal and informal education.

The project will have a desired impact on the participating schools, it will help to start or extend their international partnerships and activities, the schools will be more popular for next newcomers and public will learn more about school activities. People not connected with schools so far can learn about the school activities and maybe find some kind of cooperation. The students and teachers of the partner schools will improve their skills and will become more interesting for the labour market.

Motivation of the students and teachers for future international cooperation will increase and the awareness about Erasmus+ programme and other matters regarding the European Union will be enlarged.

The project will help the participants to become aware of the roots, history, traditions and cultural heritage of their country and to overcome prejudices and stereotypes about other cultures.

This is an important fact particularly in countries where anti-European forces are getting stronger and in the times when Europe looks back to its roots.

The project will bring a long-time benefit for the schools, some of the materials, presentations, Book of stories as well as some methods of work can be used in the future and involved in a curriculum.

The schools will also strengthen cooperation with municipalities, libraries or community centres and will be also able to offer future students the gained experience.

And above all, the participants will gain and develop their competences and will become more educated, more cultural and more interesting for labour market.

Now, let's have a look at what the students and teachers from all participating schools have done since September 2018 until today, the beginning of January 2019. Here are the short introductions of the partner schools and their activities so far:



Our School: Obchodní akademie s.r.o.



Who we are:

Headmistress: Slavka KRYSTOVÁ FLORKOVÁ

Teachers: Martin FROLÍK, Zdeňka PARCHANSKÁ, Ludmila BADUROVÁ

Students: Eliška HANUSKOVÁ, Veronika MROZKOVÁ, Gabriela FOLTYNOVÁ, Tomáš KOHUT, Nela ŠVIHÁLKOVÁ, Hana PETEROVÁ. Dominik KRÓL, Kateřina ZIELINOVÁ, Natálie CARTELLI, Adam POLÁK, Klára KLOROVÁ, Natálie NIKŠIČOVÁ, Kateřina LÁTOVÁ, Ondřej PONČA



Our activities:

September – we started our project work. At the beginning of the new school year we had a meeting with all students of our school and everybody learned about the project context, aims, tasks, methods, plans, partners and mobilities in the first year of the project.



October – we went for a project excursion to Olomouc, a town with UNESCO monument and a lot of other historical places of interest.

EXCURSION TO OLOMOUC

Three teachers and 33 students participated in this excursion. We took a walk in the town and stopped by most famous historical and cultural places. The students of the 2nd grade prepared a few words about each of the places and shared what they found out with the others.



WEBPAGE

We opened the webpage of the project and since then we have updated it several times. You can find all the most important information, files and documents on the webpage as well as some photos from our project activities and mobilities.



November – we created our team for the 1st meeting in Finland. The students started to search for old legends and stories about our town and region. We also started our e-twinning project.

December – our team finished preparations for the 1st meeting in Finland and then we finally set off for this meeting! Naantali was waiting for us! 😊



After the meeting in Naantali we updated the webpage with new materials again and created the 1st e-magazine about the meeting in Finland. Here you can see first four pages of the e-magazine:

ERASMUS+ ROOTS

ISSUE 1

Inside This Issue


Page 2: Stories and legends


Page 3: Excursion to Turku


Page 4: Workshops


Pages 5-8: Photogallery

Co-funded by the
European Programme
of the European Union

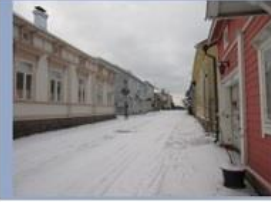










Welcome to Naantali !

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Kick-off meeting in Finland

FINLAND In September we kicked off work on the new Erasmus+ project called "Roots". For two years we will cooperate with our partners from Finland, Cyprus, Italy, Turkey and Spain, and we will meet at least ten times within the next two years!

Since the very beginning we have many reasons. Who will be our new friends? And how like it? What is like in these countries like? I, like others, wanted to see how different our culture is. And we were also looking forward to the first meeting, and the first meeting. Finally we will meet there and we will be able to talk face to face and work together!

Stories, legends, fairy tales

Our first topic is the stories and legends of our times and regions. Thirty members from our school worked on it and searched the stories mentioning them in books and on the internet and talked to their grandparents. We also asked them about their favorite fairy tales from their childhood. And what did we find?

We found a legend about the "Finnish bear". The stories, legends and fairy tales prepared by the students were presented. The story is connected with the history of our town, Naantali.

The most popular fairy tales of Cyprus are:

Logo competition

In November we all worked on creating a logo of the project. Each school then chose their best logo for the competition and during the meeting in Naantali we voted for the "winner". Our logos were made by Venetia, Daniela and Elina (see logo in 10/13 hand). However, we did not succeed with our proposals, there was a tie between two Turkish logos and in the second round we found the winner! Congratulations to Antalya!

All the other teams also prepared their presentations about stories and legends in their countries, so we learned the meaning about the Finnish national epic Kalevala, a Finnish story about a thief from Europe and about a bear from Finland. Later on, we had a Finnish story about a witch named Juhonkukka. In our school, we had a Finnish story about a witch named Aili. Aili wanted to cure all people and some other stories, myths and legends from Finland.

THE WINNING LOGO



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Santa is coming!

On Saturday we went for exercises there to learn more about Finnish history and culture. We visited the Cathedral where we could listen to a choir practicing for their performance in just a few days and find the members of this choir.

On Saturday we went for exercises there to learn more about Finnish history and culture. We visited the Cathedral where we could listen to a choir practicing for their performance in just a few days and find the members of this choir.

Some of us are invited to visit the first house in our town. It is an old house and the place looked also very nice and cozy.

After lunch we visited the view of Turku on our own other look at the market or marketplace also in the town center.

Campfire in Hajajän

Our meeting was our class just for the students and teachers. The program was prepared for us in a nice program for the student meeting. We were taken to a local nature trail in Hajajän, where had a walk in the nature reserve nearby the town. And then the time for our lunch came. We had some lunch, we had a campfire and returned our hands by the fire. It was a really relaxing time on the forest for all of us!

Turku Castle



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Workshops

Our project work throughout the past two years includes various workshops and activities. The Finnish school prepared a meeting on folk traditions of the country, a workshop "Folk stories, traditions and legends", a creative workshop with making some decorations of the local museum and a workshop called "Unleash in diversity", which is a workshop of folk art, a traditional Finnish game with Kiviniemi.

On Saturday we visited the Naantali museum with exhibitions of the typical life in the area years and even up and walked in the old town where we visited the most important places. While the students played "Naantali quiz", the teacher had a guided tour.

Creative writing

Are you asking for our findings from Finland? The best finding is that I became friends with all of them, and also have a foreign family who was nice to me. I was very surprised that they used computers in lessons. I was also surprised that many people have a car in their homes and that they have such beautiful houses with large windows.

I liked the trip, and I hope I will meet some of my new friends again. Along with a foreign family give me some experiences, and this is certainly not just for me.

I liked the trip, and I hope I will meet some of my new friends again. Along with a foreign family give me some experiences, and this is certainly not just for me.

My experiences from Finland

What surprised me? I was surprised how nice the school and the houses are, how good people here are, everyone smiles, likes to talk with me and for example learn some Czech words. And I was surprised when I saw all people with computers and my first flight by plane, but I was a bit disappointed that there was no snow in Finland!

After two hours of my travel from the airport and staying in front of the hotel, I finally found out the Naantali family. The family is really great at their places and always wanted to take care of me. A beautiful house and other things we just a little part of this family.

Other things in Finland, more precisely in the city of Turku and Naantali, were really nice houses, a castle in Turku and Old town in Naantali.

I hope that I will be able to visit the country again and if I could see the beautiful place give, I would be the happiest person.

National cuisine

One of the most popular national activities is to try types of national dishes, sweets or soups. From the national cuisine of each country. The ones we prepared were great and brought some energy. And of course we also talked about our experiences from the visit.

Creative writing

The first finding from Finland was at the time, when one place looked like it was the beautiful city of Turku. First I was surprised about the first visit in a foreign country and my first flight by plane, but I was a bit disappointed that there was no snow in Finland!

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SEE YOU IN JANUARY IN CYPRUS !!



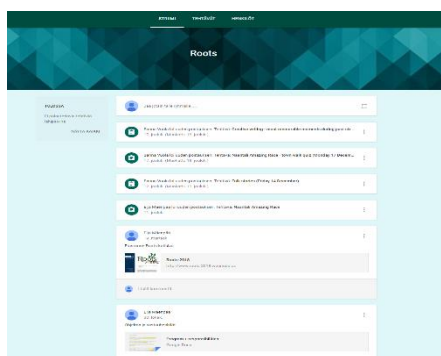
Our school: Naantalin lukio, Naantali, FINLAND

As the school year started, the personnel responsible for the project (Eija Mäenpää, Eeva Mäkinen and Sanna Vuola, later on referred to as Roots team) introduced the project in the first teachers' meeting on 13 August 2018 to all staff members of Naantali Upper Secondary School. They described the upcoming activities and project meetings during the school year 2018-2019 and introduced the participating schools. Roots team informed the staff about the progress of the preparations for the project meeting in Naantali in December 2018 in all teachers' meetings carried out in the autumn semester and also in the weekly infos for teachers on Mondays and in the weekly staff newsletter. All teachers were encouraged to participate in the activities during the project meeting in Naantali.

In the first weeks of the semester, Eeva Mäkinen introduced the project to all first graders in her lessons and encouraged them to participate. All first graders and second graders also received an invitation to participate in the project through school web service, Wilma. Students could enroll by writing a motivation letter and handing it in Google Classroom by 6 September, 2018. They were supposed to discuss the following questions in their motivation letter:

Europe is changing, the migration wave established several questions - What are our roots, our traditions? Are we aware of them, are we living with respect to them? What are similarities and differences between various cultures? Do the differences endanger our own culture? How much have our traditions changed?

Roots team evaluated the motivation letters and chose the students to participate in the project. After this, a common space for the organization of project work was created in **Google Classroom** (below)



and all participating students were invited to it. Roots Classroom will be used throughout the project for sharing files, assignments, contact information, schedules etc. and everybody can access it on mobile phones, tablets or laptops anywhere and anytime so all info is available easily. To disseminate the info about the project, Eeva Mäkinen created the FB page for the project, Eija Mäenpää gave a morning assembly to all students and teachers about the project in general and the project meeting in Naantali in particular.

After choosing the participating students, Roots team started to work on the program of the project meeting in Naantali. The application form was studied carefully so as to include all necessary items in the program. Negotiations were carried out with representatives from Naantali Parish, Naantali tourist information and Naantali Museum to enable cooperation during the project meeting. Roots team had meetings weekly and all materials were available in a shared Google Drive and each member of Roots team had their own responsibilities for the preparations.

At the same time as the preparations for the project meeting in Naantali were going on, the project coordinator kept in contact with all participating schools to gather information about the teachers and students in order to arrange their accommodation in hotels and families and also informed the guests about means of transport, weather and other practical issues concerning the visit to Naantali.

Eija Mäenpää met the board of parents' association on 24 October and 26 November 2018 to introduce Roots project to them and to involve parents' association in the planning and carrying out the activities of the project. Parents' association considered the project vital for students' understanding of different cultures and personal growth.

When the preliminary program had been established, Roots team started to work with the students chosen into this project (below).



The group had altogether 7 workshops (21 September, 28 September, 31 October, 16 November, 28 November, 4 December and 10 December) in which they worked on the themes of the first project to be carried out in Naantali. All students were given responsibilities for the coming project meeting and they worked on their tasks independently between the workshops. Some of them interviewed old people about folk stories and made a PowerPoint and video of the results. Some made a presentation on the Finnish school system and Naantali Upper Secondary School. Some made a video of Finnish food, some prepared program for the Christmas party during the meeting, some made a PowerPoint of Finnish Christmas traditions, some made a logo for the project and some made a Christmas card for the participating schools. Students were encouraged to use their imagination and to explore different ways and means to gather and process information in order to present it as effectively and clearly as possible in the project meeting. All practical issues concerning the timetable, hosting arrangements etc. were also discussed in the workshops.

Roots team arranged a meeting on 19 November with the families that were to host the international students during the project meeting in Naantali 12 – 19 December 2018. There was a presentation about the general contents of the project and the program of the project meeting was introduced. There were also many practical issues that were agreed on in the meeting.

[Project meeting diary by Viivi Anttila \(student\)](#)

Wednesday 12 December

On Wednesday we went to pick our guest up from Hotel Palo. The car ride to the hotel was really exciting, because we had only talked to our guest on the internet and now was the time to meet them.

Thursday 13 December

We came to school at 9 in the morning. We sat to the auditorium and the lights went off. The Lucia performance was starting. I was playing the guitar with Miir and Ella, Lotta, Matleena and Joanna were performing the Lucia song in Italian, Swedish and in Finnish.



After that Otto told about the tradition of Lucia and the head of the department Kimmo Kuusimäki welcomed everyone to the upper secondary school of Naantali. Then Ella, Jade and Tiina told about the Finnish school system and the foreigner teachers had a lot of questions about it! After Lunch we listened to a lecture about traditions in Finland. In the afternoon we also attended some lessons. The last activity was to play M \ddot{o} lkky, which went great and our guests were natural talents. We also enjoyed Christmas pies made by Eemeli and we drank gl \ddot{o} gi. In the evening me, Karoliina and Miir and our Czech guest went to a hockey game. They really enjoyed it and they said that it was really exciting to watch!

Friday 14 December

We started the day by listening to all the students tell about their countries' folk stories which were all really impressive. After lunch we started to prepare some performances of all countries folk stories that we would show to everyone on Tuesday. We did that in little groups and we got to design it in every way we wanted to. In the evening all of the Roots projects members met in a restaurant called Metsät \ddot{a} hti where we had our Christmas party. We ate amazing food, we had a quiz about Finland, magic tricks and even Santa came see us and brought all of us Christmas gifts! After the Christmas party we separated and we went to hang out in smaller groups. Me and my friend went to Lotta's house. We danced like crazy and played some truth or dare. The whole evening was unbelievable and I think it was the first thing that brought us closer together.

Saturday 15 December

On Saturday we went to Turku. We visited the Cathedral of Turku and the Turku castle. After that we got to go on our own to the Christmas market. During the day me and some of my friends went shopping and of course we took them in to a little shop so that they could buy something to remind them of Finland. We actually got Nicholas to buy tar soap. That night me and Karoliina and our Czech guests went to my grand mother's house to go to sauna and swimming.

Sunday 16 December



At 10 in the morning we pulled warm clothes on and headed for the nature trail of Haijainen. We walked the nature trail to a beautiful laavu which brought a lot of good memories at least for me because I hadn't visited that place since I was a little kid. We wondered around in the forest, barbequed sausages and stick buns. The nature was so peaceful and refreshing. Some of us played tag and few people got their shoes wet because we were jumping around a swamp. But the atmosphere was so good that a few pairs of wet shoes didn't ruin our fun! In the afternoon we joined the Christmas carols in Naantali church.

Monday 17 December

After an awesome weekend we returned to school and started our morning with presentations about all the countries' cuisines. We got to taste amazing new flavors and especially the Turkish food made an impression on me, because I have never tasted anything similar to that.



After eating lunch, we made some art. We had recycled materials and our assignment was to make something to reflect the upcoming year or the future. The groups had made pieces involving the global warming, pollutions, the bad effect of media and how we could solve these problems. The local newspaper made an article about this art workshop and the project in general. The last activity was to go to Naantali Museum where we made some traditional Finnish Christmas decorations. From the museum we went and played the Amazing race. There we got clues about some important locations in Naantali that we were supposed to find with little groups and pose for a photo in the specific place. The best group photo was awarded on Tuesday. In the evening some of us went to watch Naantali figureskating teams' Christmas show. Everyone got to go to the ice after the performances. There were students skating from Italy, Cyprus, Spain, the Czech Republic and of course some of us, the Finnish students. Some of the students were skating for the first time and all of them got better with every slide. From skating we went to Lotta's family's beach house with a little group where we went to sauna and also into the freezing sea! It was a perfect last night with the most Finnish thing that there is - sauna and the cold water! Some of the other group members had a movie night at Jade's place and they watched a scary movie together.

Tuesday 18 December

When we came to school on Tuesday, we started to search photos from the past week and we wrote things that we saw, experienced and how we felt. In the afternoon we presented our folk stories. The stories were performed by slide shows, music, a play and even a rap. Every group had their own style and that is what makes us unique. The winners of logo and group selfie were announced and given the prizes and the certificates of attendance were delivered. In the evening we went to the Spa to have a farewell dinner.





Our School: LIZARRA IKASTOLA



Who we are:

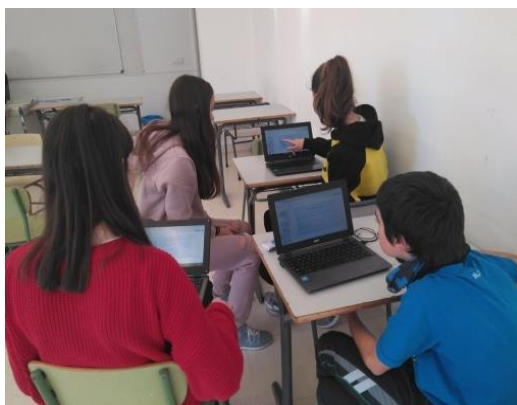
Teachers: Gaizka Untzueta, Eneko Aizpuru, Joseba Tristán, Pello Etxaniz, Cesar Etxeberria,.

Students: Maite Areitioaurtena, Ishka Saez de Acedo, Imanol Leza, Julen Andueza, Aimar Mateo, Aimar Lopez, Ainhoa San Martin, Maddi Galdeano, Amaia Armendariz, Nahia Otxotorena, Nayra Etxeberria, Arturo Jimenez, Alba Hermoso de Mendoza, Naroa Barbarin, Mei Martinez and Izeia Encina.

STARTING OUR PROJECT: ROOTS

In the first half of October we presented the project to the students, parents and teachers and promoted it on our school webpage, Facebook page and other local webs and newspapers (<http://radioestella.com/inicio/?p=39091>).

After the selection of the team of students, we explained them the main characteristics, goals, themes, and other details about the project. Finally, we started to work in order to prepare our first mobility on the topic of "Folk stories, narrations and Theatre".



*Looking for
some good old
stories and
legends!*



OUR ACTIVITIES:

Before our first mobility, teams of students regularly met at school to prepare several power point presentations on different topics such as: **our country and school, local legends, myths and traditions** and, thirdly, **gastronomy**.



Our Erasmus + team students working hard on the presentations.



Another task carried out by some of our students was to design the **logos** to be sent to our partners for the final best logo competition which would be held in Naantali, Finland. Some of the students use online tools, but others tried to hand -draw them. It was amazing to discover how creative most of our students are!!

During their drawing lessons and under the orientation of the teacher Nuria Urriza our students rolled up their sleeves and started drawing and creating simple 'masterpieces.

Doing our best to draw the logo for our Roots project.



Anyway, one of the biggest challenges and, our main topic for the first mobility in Finland was to carry out the surveys on local legends, traditions and stories. So, by November, we started to work very hard on it. First, task was distributed among all students participating in the programme. Our students had to ask their grandparents to tell them local stories, legends and myths to collect them and carry out a survey. Finally, students worked out the results of the survey on the topic in a collaborative team work and prepared a power point presentation. Apart from giving information of our grandparents' stories, the power point researched specifically one of the most well-known legends in our area: the legend of the thief Aldabika.



*Two of our
(left) and
interviewing*

*Erasmus + team students,
Alba (right), after
their grandparents.*



Maddi

FIRST MOBILITY!!

So, once all the tasks were ready, the great adventure started in December 2018 when a group of two teachers and three students went to Naantali, Finland. We met wonderful friends, great teachers, we carried out the project activities and we had a lot of fun.

Even one of our regional newspaper talked about our visit!!!

<https://www.noticiasdenavarra.com/2018/12/22/vecinos/estella-y-merindad/merindad-de-estella/lizarra-ikastola-en-finlandia-con-el-primero-de-una-serie-de-intercambios-de-la-beca-erasmus>

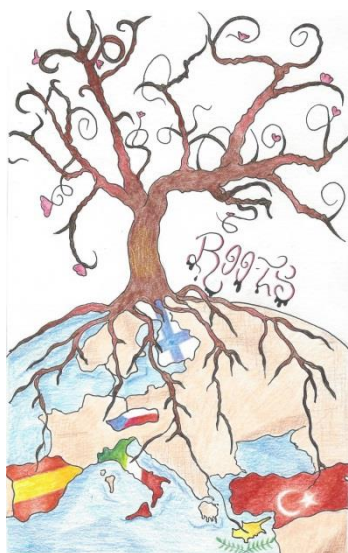




Our school: Lykeio Polemidion, Limassol, CYPRUS

At the beginning of **September** we announced to all our students of the first and the second grade the inception of the Erasmus+ Project "Roots". We explained them, all about this project (content, aim, duties, the countries taking part etc.). The students were very enthusiastic in taking part in this Project and the final selection was made after interviewing them. The students, who were chosen, were Andreas Massou, Nicolas Hatzichristou, Elena Christou, Michalis Iakovides, Andreas Georgiou, Georgia Quinton, Tasos Anastasiou, Chrisostomos Pozatos, Myrianthi Vasiliou, Nicol Charalambous, Maria Georgiou, Maria Vasiliou, Maria Ioannou, Christos Chatzimiltis, Michalis Socratous and George Christofi. The teachers, also taking part in this project are Marina Georgiadou as the coordinator of the Project, Christina Ellina, Panayiotis Karakatsianis, Nicolas Genethliou and Andreas Petrou.

In **October** the logo competition was announced and 2 of the drawings that were chosen took part at the final competition in Finland between the partners' countries. These drawings were made by Niki Avraam and Iraklis Constantinou.



At the end of **October** our students who were going to take part on the first mobility began to work on the first project "Folks, Stories, Narrations". They also made interviews with elder people about folk stories they used to hear in their childhood.

On the 3rd of **November** the coordinator of the project Marina Georgiadou attended a seminar/workshop "Refugees, Migrants: pedagogical approach" which was organized by the UNHCR and the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus. During this seminar, Marina Georgiadou made contact with different people for the organization of the second mobility which will take place from the 22nd to 29th of January 2019 in Cyprus on the subject of immigration.

Moreover, the students began the preparation of a questionnaire on the same subject and the final one was sent to the partners.

On the 4th of December, students of the 1st grade visited the Kourion Amphitheatre and the ancient mosaics in Paphos, an important part of the Paphos Archaeological Park, a World Heritage Site (under the protection of UNESCO)



Emigration

During the English lesson in the second and third class of Lyceum the pupils worked on articles dealt with different aspects of immigration.

They read texts, articles from the newspapers, poems and lyrics related to the subject. They found reasons of emigration, how the immigrants feel and how the native people face them.

The pupils tried to understand their difficulties, their hard conditions of life and found solutions on the problem.

This way the pupils got used to cooperating with them and acquiring empathy. They also had the will and sensitivity to help them become full members of the local community.

On the 12th of December we finally had our first meeting in Naantali Finland where we met our new partners from Finland, Turkey, Czech Republic, Spain and Italy.

The meeting was very well organized, and the hospitality was great. We learned about the Finnish educational system, traditions and habits. We visited very interesting places and the most important, we made new friends.

We are looking forward to you in Cyprus, for our second meeting.



Our school: Ipsseoa, Catania, ITALY

Italian team activities

The first project meeting of the Erasmus+ project “Roots” was held in Naantali (Finland) from Dec 13th to 19th 2018.

The preparation activity for this project at the Istituto Alberghiero “Karol Wojtyla” started in late summer with the exchange of email messages between the local teachers involved in the project and the European Partners in order to fix the dates of the various meetings according to the availability and engagements of each group. Once the dates were confirmed, local planning started with the selection of the students involved in this meeting and the planning of the activities foreseen in the general program of the project as well as to make travel plans.

A meeting between the Italian project coordinator and other colleagues involved in the project, took place to plan some activities for the first meeting as well as some dissemination actions with students, parents and colleagues of other schools. The presentation of the project was launched on the school web site where the project was illustrated with its main features and purposes.

A student selection process started in the 5th year classes, chosen as being part to the first phase of this projects. Selection criteria to choose students were their individual interest on the project, their level of English competences reached and their good behaviour during school activities. Three students from a 5th year class of the Enogastronomy section were chosen to take part to the project. Teachers met the students’ parents in order to illustrate the project, get the necessary authorization and get them involved in the project.

According to the program established for the meeting, the work focused on the knowledge of cultural heritage through traditions, folk stories, legends and traditional cuisine. The teachers/students team planned the first activities based on the collection of some interviews to grannies and other aged people to find out which stories were most popular during their childhood and what the aim of these stories was. In the same time all students of the class involved in the project started to carry out an internet research on the most popular stories. Some students went around the town to take pictures of monuments and other interesting features, others started to prepare the official logo of the project and others took some interviews.

For the traditional cuisine, students produced a video showing the preparation of typical desserts such as the cannolo, while other desserts like the martorana fruit, the buccellati and the cassata were

shown in a power point presentation. The whole class was involved in the research and preparation of the material.

These activities provided students the opportunity to improve social and communication skills, creativity, environmental awareness and boost entrepreneurship concepts.

In the meantime the project was launched on the eTwinning platform.

Between 12th and 19th December the first international meeting with students and teachers was held at the Naantali High School in Finland under the Erasmus + project "Roots". Students had to develop social and personal abilities within a team, to actively suggest and accept opinions of others in order to fulfill the main issue of this teamwork: raising awareness of the importance of cultural heritage as the basis of knowledge and acceptance of other cultures.

We left Catania on the 11th of December at 13.05 and got to Berlin in the afternoon. After a short visit to Alexander platz and to the Christmas market, where we had some typical hot dog for dinner, we went back to the hotel. The following day we flew to Helsinki and later, by bus, we reached Turku and then Naantali. The travel was quite long but exciting. When we got Naantali, in the afternoon, the Principal of the High School and the hosting students were waiting for us at the bus station. We were all very excited and very very happy.

On December 13th, we had a warm welcome at the Naantali high school by the principal and other teacher while Saint Lucia's chorus sang traditional songs. We were introduced to the Finnish school system and to the main topic of the survey that was the old stories and legends of each country. Thirteen students from six European countries Finland, Czech Republic, Turkey, Spain, Italy and Cyprus illustrated the results of their survey on the above topics.

In the following days, we completed the tour of Turku, the old capital town of Finland with its cathedral and castle, the campfire in the forest, the historical center of Naantali and assisted to the Christmas carols at Naantali church.

The last day was very sad and our visit ended with great hugs.

We will meet again another 5 times in two years to explore other issues related to our cultural background and discover what's similar and what's different among our cultures.





Our School: Özel Falez Fen Bilimleri Anadolu Lisesi, Antalya, Turkey



Who we are:

Headmister: Birol ORAK

Teachers: Ümmühan YÜCEYALTIRIK, Melahat ORAK, Pinar DEVECİ, Tuncay SAVTAK

Students: Sude TAŞKIN, Mehmet Kaan ENGÜR, Melisa ÇOTUR, Damla KALAYCI, Nisa Nur TEZCAN, Ahmet Mert MUTLU, M. Onur AKBOYUN, Berkay ULU, Betül DENİZ, Meriç EREL, Cansu ATAY, Atahan Okay UĞUR, Berker ÇETİNKAYA, Dilara YILMAZ, Kerem SALMAN, Sümeyye Nalan TOZOĞLU, Deniz ERDOĞAN, Efe ÇEVİK, Yağmur ŞAHİN; Sude AKINCI, Hande ATMACA

Our activities:

October - We presented the project to the students and teachers and shared the most important information on the school walls. We established the school team to start the preparations for the 1st project meeting in Naantali, Finland. We had a competition in the school to choose the best three logos for the project logo competition. The project team had meetings with the local administrations, shared information with them, then prepared the promotional materials.

November – We completed all the workshops, the stories of legends in Turkey, and shot the videos. Then we chose the participants to join the project meeting in Finland according to the best prepared logos, best shot videos and best story of legends.



And then we started! December;

The main topics of the meeting were folk stories, narrations and theatre. We arrived in Naantali on December 12th and welcomed by the school project team. Next day, we all met at the school where the main ideas, aims, and methods were presented. After the welcome speech by the school headmistress, Eija Maenpää, the Finnish team presented the school and the education system in their country. Then all partners presented their schools and towns so that everybody could learn more about them.

In the afternoon, the Project Logo Competition was held. All participants starting voting for the logos which were taken to the meeting from their schools to choose the best logo. At the end of the last project day, our logo prepared by our project team was chosen as the Roots Project Logo.

Students went into the classes and learned something about the Finnish lesson / class system. Meanwhile the teachers discussed all the details of the project and agreed on our next steps in the project.



During the workshops and activities at school, we had our lunches at the school restaurant. This was one of the most surprising things for us because we learned that

the lunches for the students were free. The other thing which was different from our system was that there were no school bells between the lessons. Our teachers went into the some lessons and had some chats with the teachers, discussed the similarities and differences between the countries.

During the history of legends, our students presented their videos which was about the well famous legendary “Köroğlu”. This video was the interviews with their grandfathers and grandmothers taken by the students themselves about Köroğlu.



The other topic by our team was “Kerem ile Aslı”. This was made as a role-play by the international teams.

Next day, there was the "National Cuisine", which was one of the most popular activities of the project! All the partners prepared their tables with some traditional sweets, meals, snacks or drinks and decorated them with their flags.

However, it was good to get to know each other more and have some fun together. Therefore, after we completed our daily activities, we went to the Old Naantali Town, museum, harbour and some sightseeings in the town centre to learn about the history and culture of Naantali.



On Dec. 19th, we completed our project meeting and started our journey way back to our city. When we returned to Helsinki, we had a sightseeing in Helsinki together with the Czech team.

At the beginning of January, we had a dissemination activity at the neighbouring school, Özel Güney Anadolu Lisesi and we explained the workshops, activities, results of the project and we sha



The experiences form our participants;

I was excited when I heard about the Erasmus+ Project. I wanted to take part in this project because I think such as projects have developed people .

I had some concern on my way to Finland. I was wondering how would people behave to me , as if my Eng. level was enough etc. I waited for project to be a good experience and different from my view of the world. Indeed it was. I had a very nice week in Finland. Our trip to Finland started on Wednesday December 12. We flew to İstanbul from Antalya. We were in airport for 4 hours. Then, flight to Helsinki airport. When we got there , the minibus was waiting for us. We took the minibus with the Czech team and went to Naantali. When we got to Naantali, we went to the hotel to meet our host families. My host friend, Tiina was very friendly. I had heard that Finnish people were not as friendly as Turks but I realized that it was wrong because the Finnish people we never met even, greeted and smiled. We went home. I met her mother and brother. They were as friendly as Tiina.

13 December;

We got up at 7.30 am in the morning. We had breakfast then her mother left us to school. Finnish students introduced the Finnish education system. I really liked it bec The Finland educ. system allows students to take time for themselves Then the other students introduced their own school and country show. We introduced Antalya and our school and city. And then we voted to choose the best logo. We had lunch at school. After lunch, we attended lessons. It was an interesting experience for me. In the evening, we met with other girls and had a tour of Naantali and had dinner. It was a beautiful evening.

14 December;

We made studies about folk tales in school. We ate dinner in a small, charming restaurant. Santa gave us some gifts there. Then a small quiz was made and we won.

After the meal, we spent time on the beach. Then Tiina's mom took us home. We had so much fun with Tiina that night. We watched movies ,ate sth and chatted for a bit. We realized that we had many similar aspects.

15 December;

We visited Turku with a guide. We saw the streets ,museum, castle ,church and dark side of Turku. It was a informative trip.

16 December;

We did nice trekking. We ate sausages at the campfire. We had a great time. We got some fresh air. Then we went home. Her mom cooked a traditioanal Finnish dish. I liked it but I think Finnish food is without spices. Then we went to Naantali church.

17 December;

All teams introduced their cuisines. We took some Turkish dishes like Turkish delight, baklava, pies. Everyone liked it.

We went to The Naantali Museum with a guide. Then, we took photos for the town walk quiz.

18 December;

We wrote a report about this week in Finland. We did role play about folk stories. Then we did group work in art class. In the evening, we ate dinner at the Naantali Spa . Everyone was sad bec it was our last night together. After dinner, we had coffee and chatted. Time to say goodbye. We hugged each other and went home. We had a very good time with Tiina at night. I showed Tiina and her mom some photos of Antalya. I explained some things about Turkey and invited them to Turkey.

19 December;

Day of departure. After we left Naantali, we went to Helsinki. We visited the bazaar and White Cathedral. Then, we went to airport. So, my Finland adventure was over.

I would like to express my thanks to all teachers who organized such a wonderful Erasmus+ School Partnerships Project for us and also the family of PELTONEN who hosted me very well during my stay in Naantali.

Sude TAŞKIN

What do I think and feel about Finland

On my way to Finland i was very excited. It was my first time travelling to a new country and i didn't have a single clue about what to expect. I knew a little about their cultures and i knew they also knew so little about me. But when i first met with my host parents, i felt like i already knew them. They were so genuine and caring through my whole visit i never felt like a foreigner. Their culture was very different than ours, mostly shaped by their climate and surroundings. For example ice sports like skiing and ice hockey are very popular in Finland. Their cuisine is based on fish and things they find in Finland. Most of

the Finns know the name and properties of plants in Finland. For example they will mostly know whether a mushroom is poisonous or not. Their early education is full of useful informations to be later used in life. After that, Finns are lectured to be a contributing person to the society, each person can go after their goals and interest and decide in a career considering their abilities. I think the key for their successful education system is the freedom, the freedom to learn, the freedom to be. Finns can specialize in subjects they want to learn. Later on, they get exams not about things they have to remember, but about things they actually learn. Exams are done on the person's school without strict rules. In Turkey, it is mostly done with under stressful conditions which often leads them to panic and fail the exam and if possible, a regular student is very likely to cheat. Finnish education system does not have classes based on the students age but it does have lessons. There are some mandatory lessons a student has to take but to take more lessons are up to the student. They can decide what they want to learn. And also the school books do not look like regular school books, they are especially designed to attract attention and i found that pretty nice. The people in Finland, as i have observed, don't seem to talk to you unless you do the first move. The architecture in Finland is very neoclassical, it has sharp edges and high contrast and it looks good (in my opinion). The population is not very large with low density per people so most of people has their own estate. Because Finland has been under Sweden's controle for about a hundred years, the culture of Finns are very similiar to Swedes. And Swedish is one of the official languages of the country. The Finnish language comes from the same language tree from Turkish and has a lot of postpositions and declining, so it is not that hard for a Turkish speaking person to learn Finnish as it would be for an English or German speaking person.

Mehmet Kaan ENGÜR

MY ERASMUS+ EXPERIENCE

When I go back and think about my experience with Erasmus+ project, I get chills and feel thankful for using this kind of opportunity.

At first,I was a little scared. I was afraid that the people in there will treat us like strangers. But that didn't happen. I met a lot of people there and I love every single of them. I had the opportunity to meet people from another cultures and this makes me so happy. Teaching our culture, folk stories and socializing with other people while doing these was a dream come true for me. I really appreciate the moments I had there.

People were so nice to us and we had a lot of fun. Even while doing the group projects, we were able to discuss about any topic.

I saw it snowing outside for the first time in my life. The view was amazing in Naantali. They accommodated us very well. We went sightseeing a lot and explored new places.

What this project taught me is that it does not matter which country we're from, what color we are and what differences we have. I miss my friends in there although I only had 1 week with them. We really loved each other and we even planned a reunion.

I think I am very lucky to be chosen for the project.

Melisa ÇOTUR

See you in Limassol, Cyprus in January !

*WE HOPE TO HAVE A FRUITFUL COOPERATION
AND
MEET IN LIMASSOL, CYPRUS IN JANUARY, 2019*

This newsletter is based on narrations and photos collected from the teachers and students of all participating schools.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

DECLARATION

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This newsletter reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.