**Articles about our project and our 1st transnational meeting in Serres-Greece in local electronic press “infonews24”**

Link of the article:

<http://www.infonews24.gr/index.php/info-news-sports/serres/item/10571-mirror-mirror-on-the-wall-kainotomo-evropaiko-programma-tou-2ou-dimotikoy-sxoleiou-serron-gia-tin-koinoniki-ensomatosi-kai-tin-kalliergeia-energon-politon>

**“Mirror, mirror on the wall”**

**Innovative European project of the 2nd Primary School on the topics of Social Inclusion and Active Citizenship**

by Suzana Drampa, teacher of English of 2nd Primary school of Serres

responsible for public relations in the Greek team

**Serres, 12/10/2017**

The 2nd Primary School of Serres hosted 7 teachers from 3 schools from Nicosia, Cyprus, from Schkopau, Liebsen, Germany and from Oulu-Jaali, Finland from 01/10/17 to 05/10/17. It was the 1st transnational meeting of the participants in a European educational ERASMUS + project, entitled “Mirror, mirror on the wall” dealing with the issues of social inclusion, cultivation of the spirit of an active citizen, and reduction of early school drop-out. Our 4 schools have special features: schools with inclusion classes or special classes integrated in the school curriculum, multicultural schools with minorities-refugees-Roma; the Cypriot school is literally built on the Green Line.

The main priority of the project is to include and involve all the students in the activities of school life to the extent of their capabilities/skills and regardless of their differences. The special needs of each student, aiming at his/her progress and development in learning, social and emotional levels as well as linguistic and motor (kinetic) skills are all essential issues to be considered. Another important factor in the implementation of the project is that it takes into account the needs of the students who belong to ethnic minorities or have an immigrant background. The project’s objective is to motivate all students to reflect (mirror effect) on the various aspects of themselves and their immediate environment (school, family, community) and to accept their difference and uniqueness. We encourage them to reflect on their choices and to work for their personal and social development.

In addition, it aims at developing skills on the issue of active citizenship, such as critical thinking, developing dialogue skills, building argumentation, claiming their rights in an oral and written way etc.

The symbol of the mirror is borrowed from the tale of Snow white and is used as a tool of reflecting on ourselves and our environment, with final goal first to accept this image and then to improve it.

The experience of hosting our partners was fantastic, the topics of the project and the relevant activities were a great challenge, the students of our school (2nd Primary School) were excited. We would like to thank all the directors and the responsible teachers of the institutes of Special Education in Serres, who welcomed us and had the courtesy to answer our visitors’ questions about the infrastructure of Special Education in our Prefecture and their function (inclusion class of the 2nd primary school, Special School, Primary School of Vamvakophyto, and Therapeutic Horse-riding Centre). The Head of Primary Education, Mr Xenophon Papastamopoulos and the responsible School Advisor for pedagogic matters of the 3rd region, Mr Armodios Tsivas introduced and supported the works of the meeting. We are also obliged to Ms Kate Emmanouilidou-chair of the local UNESCO Club for Serres, as well as the Project Manager of the Club (volunteer), Ms Anta Tsaira-consultant on EU-funded projects, for the very interesting and relevant seminar-workshop on the topic of the European Active Citizen.

Finally, we thank ERA Serron radio station and especially Ms Crysanthi Palazi, for the invitation to present our project and 1st transnational meeting on her radio program “We talk with meaning” (Milame symvouleutika” broadcasted on Wednesday October 18th at 7:00pm from ERA radio station frequencies.

During the visit, the partner teachers visited Lake Lerkini wetland (RAMSAR Convention) and Alistrati Cave (UNESCO heritage) as well as other regional attractions of historical and cultural interest. As they pointed out before their departure…”we take with us samples of Greek civilization and hospitality, valuable lessons on Special Education, Active citizenship and Inclusion matters which will be food for thought until the next meeting...and enough sun and light to support us during the next two years of collaboration…”

Link of the radio interview:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QwAU3AmzBBcze7ugsSk6ZMOxtsPswN6H/view>