**1st Transnational Meeting – Greek Report**

**Introduction**

The 2nd Primary School of Serres, represented by the ERASMUS + team of 4 teachers, hosted 2 teachers of the Primary School of Saint Dometiou III, Nicosia, Cyprus, 3 teachers from Grundschule “Astrid Lindgren”, Schkopau, Germany and 2 teachers from Jaalin Koulu, Jaali, Finland from 01/10/17 to 05/10/17 for the works of the 1st transnational-preparatory meeting of the European educational ERASMUS + project-school partnership, entitled “Mirror, mirror on the wall” dealing with the issues of social inclusion, active citizenship and reduction of early school drop-out.

**Preparation**

After frequent communication between the 4 schools and the guidance of the German coordinating team, the Greek ERASMUS+ team organized the meeting

1. creating the necessary documents: schedule, participant list, evaluation questionnaire of the meeting, certificates of participation
2. arranging accommodation and other details for the visiting teachers: hotel, visits, transport, meals, etc.
3. preparing the school and students for the visit
4. preparing the necessary materials for the workshops: presentation of the school(pointing out the peculiarities and difficulties of having a majority of Roma students) and area, presentation of Special Education in Greece and Serres, seminar on Active Citizenship by a “critical friend”

The Greek school spent a small amount of the fund on organisational needs.

**1st Day Monday 02/10/2017 Philippos Xenia Hotel**

There was a warming up activity for getting to know each other, greetings and a round table discussion about the 3-day meeting agenda. We presented our schools and areas through Power Point presentations and photos, as well as reports and feedback results about the beginning of the project and the first activities in each country. The round table discussion continued with an insight into Greek practices on inclusion and active citizenship, where a sample of the Greek curriculum on the issue of civics/social and political education was presented. We also finalised the schedule and timetable of the project activities. Ms Kate Emmanouilidou-chair of UNESCO Club for Serres and Ms Anta Tsaira-volunteer consultant of EU-funded projects, gave the seminar: “Active Citizenship Education” about effective practices for active citizenship and social inclusion in Greece. Good practice: DOCPIE project and workshop game: “teaching children about inequalities and social inclusion” were relevant and useful, too.

**2nd day Tuesday 03/10/2017 Philippos Xenia Hotel**

The Head of the Local Office of Primary Education and the School Advisor for Pedagogical Matters greeted the meeting works. On the round table, we initiated our project page on the etwinning platform, decided on the procedures for the creation of Mascots and Logo of the project and discussed about budget issues, the Handbook and the criteria for choosing the pupils for the mobilities. On part of Greece, Mr Konstantinos Kiosses, special education teacher presented the particularities of Special Education in Greece and how we could help the integration of children with disabilities through active citizenship and a discussion about adapting best practices for special needs students in each country followed. We agreed that the Finnish school would have the responsibility of the etwinning platform organisation, where all the schools should upload relative material. The Greek and Cyprus schools would have the responsibility of the handbook material. Each country could choose their own Mascot and there would be a Logo competition between the schools. As far as the criteria for the choice of students for the mobilities are concerned, we decided that each country would set each own set of criteria based on the peculiarities of the student population, on the condition there is inclusion of all students (special needs, minorities, refugee background, less privileged social status etc.) We also agreed to have some common activities every month and present them on monthly Skype meetings. .

**3rd Day Wednesday 04/10/2017 2nd Primary School of Serres**

The day started with a visit to the Special School of Serres, the Diagnostic Centre for Special Needs, the Therapeutic Horse-Riding Centre (where we watched the visit of a Polish special school funded by an ERASMUS+ project) and finally we arrived at the 2nd Primary School of Serres, met the rest of the teaching staff, had a warm music welcome by the students, saw the ERASMUS corner, played with the German mascot “Pippi Longstocking”, entered into classes (Special Inclusion Class Included), shared some activities with the students, exchanged letters, drawings, presents, videos, photos and other materials. When the bell rang at the end of classes, we followed the students to the Roma neighbourhood to experience the cultural and social peculiarities of the Roma race. The day finished with round table discussion about the creation of the questions for the evaluation questionnaires on active citizenship and inclusion. We created a common basis of questions and each country could adjust them and the way of conducting the evaluation, according to the special conditions and capabilities of the school.

Every day there was a short evaluation of the day and an evaluation of the whole meeting through a questionnaire created by the Greek team, the results of which are included in the materials of our etwinning space.

On departure day, we had a study case by visiting Vamvakophyto Primary school, the only school of the region with special classes integrated into the standard public primary school of the village.

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.

**Feedback and Evaluation**

The majority of the participants strongly agreed that the meeting was very important for the organisation of the project and that the initial objectives were met. The communication was mostly fluent and clear and the atmosphere relaxing and friendly. The work climate was collaborative and creative, although the work load seemed heavy to some of us for the few days of the meeting. We acquired ideas and information about the project, although there wasn’t enough time to answer all questions clearly. Visiting places of historic, cultural or environmental importance in the hosting country helped the participants understand better the way of life and thinking of the country.

**Objectives met**

The initial objectives of the meeting which were met: We…

* dealt with the issue of special needs in the various partner countries starting from Greece and exchanged ideas about inclusion and active citizenship
* had the first specific seminar to expand the competence of all participants, who acted as multipliers on the international level, according to our dissemination strategies
* communicated and deepened the professional bond between the project partners in order to strengthen the sustainability of the cooperation
* established good collaboration and working processes to strengthen the team and created a spirit of co-operation as a strong foundation for the success of the program
* visiting partners experienced aspects of the culture of Greece( history, food, social life, education, environmental culture, music, entertainment) in order to pass them on to their students

**Further Dissemination in the hosting country**

There was dissemination of the meeting’s works and results with an article in the local electronic press and an hour-long interview broadcasted on a local radio station with panhellenic scope.

For the Greek school

Suzana Drampa, teacher of English

Savvas Bermperidis, Headmaster