

WISE WORDS

European eTwinning Project

2019-2020

This school year 2019-2020 our school – **17th Lyceum of Athens** (in Pagrati), Greece – participated in the European e-Twinning program ‘WISE WORDS’. Coordinator for our school is Mrs. Elen Sotiropoulou, English Language Teacher. Every year students are encouraged by their teacher to participate as the eTwinning project is a beneficial extracurricular activity that offers students the opportunity to put into practice and further develop their language skills while meeting people from other countries in a controlled and protected manner.

‘WISE WORDS’, our eTwinning project this school year, has been an inspiring learning journey for both students and teachers. It highlighted significant issues of human values : democracy, freedom, freedom of speech, respect, cooperation, fair play only to mention some.

It was a fulfilling, successful and creative project that offered students a variety of challenging learning opportunities.

The project opened up our horizons as a school community:

- we met new people from other European countries;
- we made friends from other European countries;
- we learnt about their educational systems and daily life routines while doing and exchanging planned motivating creative tasks as part of the project;
- we put into practice our English language skills;
- we explored and developed further our ICT skills;

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- all students were involved in learning activities inspired by the project;
- we used and shared media, e-tools, images, videos.

We learnt about and how to use many etools which we incorporated in our learning - teaching approach thus getting technology - ICT - enhance and support our Language projects within WISE WORDS.

We were involved in a variety of interesting real life tasks that empowered students' self confidence and learning strategies. They were immersed in exciting activities you can see at :<https://twinspace.etwinning.net/90913/home>, the home page of our eTwinning project WISE WORDS. Checking the 'Pages' on the left hand you will see the list of all the activities. Enjoy!

The final group activity was an online debate of 4 rounds in which most students were involved and the 'speakers' represented each group. Here you can see some of the participants and the final oral evaluation of students about the whole project which was conducted in a really friendly and supportive atmosphere. <https://youtu.be/dY9htfR1dtQ>

School and partner's name

The school members involved in WISE WORDS were from:

1. Portugal - Agrupamento de Escolas Emídio Garcia, Bragança, Teacher/Coordinator Luísa Lima
2. Portugal - Escola Básica e Secundária Gonçalves Zarco, Funchal, Madeira, Teacher Alexandra Francisco
3. Poland - Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących Nr 1 STO, Warszawa, Teacher Anna Tobiacelli
4. Turkey - Fatma Akgül-Söke Yavuz Selim Anatolian High School, SÖKE/AYDIN
5. Croatia - Škola za umjetnost, dizajn, grafiku i odjeću Zabok, Teacher Barbara Hanjilec
6. Germany - Otto-Hahn-Schule, Hanau, Teacher Sezi Eruygun
7. Greece - 17 Lyceum of Athens, Teacher Elena Sotiropoulou (Elen Soti)

We are truly happy and grateful for this lovely learning experience beyond our borders and wish to thank **Luisa Lima, the coordinator from Portugal** who allowed us to participate and gain so much!

We met such wonderful, open minded and kind hearted people - students and teachers - devoted to their work and goals that have been a real inspiration and encouragement to help us move on and keep offering a variety of learning experiences to our young students.

We are Grateful! THANK YOU

Our school community congratulates **Filippos Sarakis**, Year 11, for participating in the first and second round of the online debates and contributing to his group's success both times. His group was the **winner** finally!

We also congratulate all our school, students involved - Year 10 & 11 - who participated in the activities in really creative ways. Given the situation with the global alert of Covid-19 the students will finalize their video productions when they all meet again and will present their work at our school on a special day for eTwinning and Erasmus projects presentations. However they have managed to prepare all the preliminary work under peculiar circumstances and we wish to congratulate them for their time and effort. Meetings and communications were held online.

The WISE WORDS group awards **Filippos Sarakis** with a **Certificate** to congratulate him for his eager effort.



Filippos Sarakis

from 17 Lyceum of Athens, Athens, Greece

Participated in the online Debate of the eTwinning Project **WISE WORDS** during the school year 2019-2020.

30.6.2020

Lúisa Maria Marques de Sousa Lima
Administrator



17 Lyceum of Athens, Athens, Greece

Participated in the online Debate of the eTwinning Project **WISE WORDS** during the school year 2019-2020.

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Elen Sotiropoulou
from 17 Lyceum of Athens, Athens, Greece

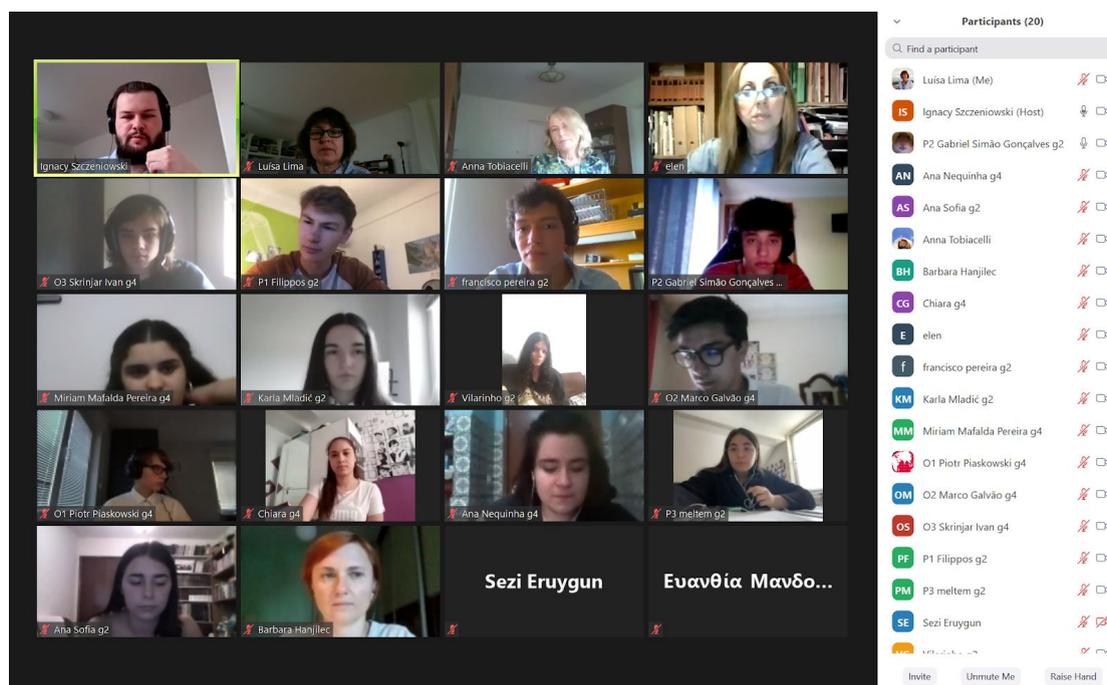
Participated in the online Debate of the eTwinning Project **WISE WORDS** during the school year 2019-2020.

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DEBATES

The idea of learning about debates - styles, issues, techniques - as well as conducting and participating in debates was part of the multifaceted study of the power of words, thus WISE WORDS!



We managed to complete the task online amid the corona virus outbreak. This activity gave students new focus and hope. Their minds were off the the global health threat for a while. Liberating their minds and hearts from such a problem and redirecting them to creative, communicative projects where their active participation was required proved to be beneficial to all students and teachers.

We had online meetings through Google Meet and Messenger throughout the week for 2-3 weeks,, which kept us quite busy and happy! During the meetings students from each group planned their research and debate presentation. We had formed 4 debate groups and each group had a teacher coordinator to support and guide the students.

Our school students were in the 2nd group and cooperated with students from Braganca Portugal, Madeira Portugal, Germany and Croatia. Filippos Sarakis was the speaker for our group and the rest of our students participated as attendees.

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There were two rounds of online debates via Zoom which were successfully coordinated by the Polish teacher Ignacy Szczeniowski who was were helpful

to all. In the first round - 28 May 2020 - we had debates between the groups: 1&3, 2&4 and in the second round - 4 June 2020 - 1&4 and 2&3.

Group 2 won both times, which made us really happy as our student Filip was in it.

Topics - 28th May, 2020

Groups 1 and 3 – “Drug testing on animals should be banned.”

Groups 2 and 4 -- “Obligatory homework should be banned.”

The topics for the 4th June debates were:

Groups 1 -2 - “The internet has done more harm than benefits for democracy.”

Groups 3 - 4 - “Kids and teens who regularly play violent games are more prone to violence.”

Students were given clear instructions on how to debate and the style they were to use - Oxford Debate. They were quite serious and respectful to the issues and each other. They made clear, substantiated arguments and did their best to counter argue and win the debate in a civil manner complying to the regulations they were introduced to at prior meetings.

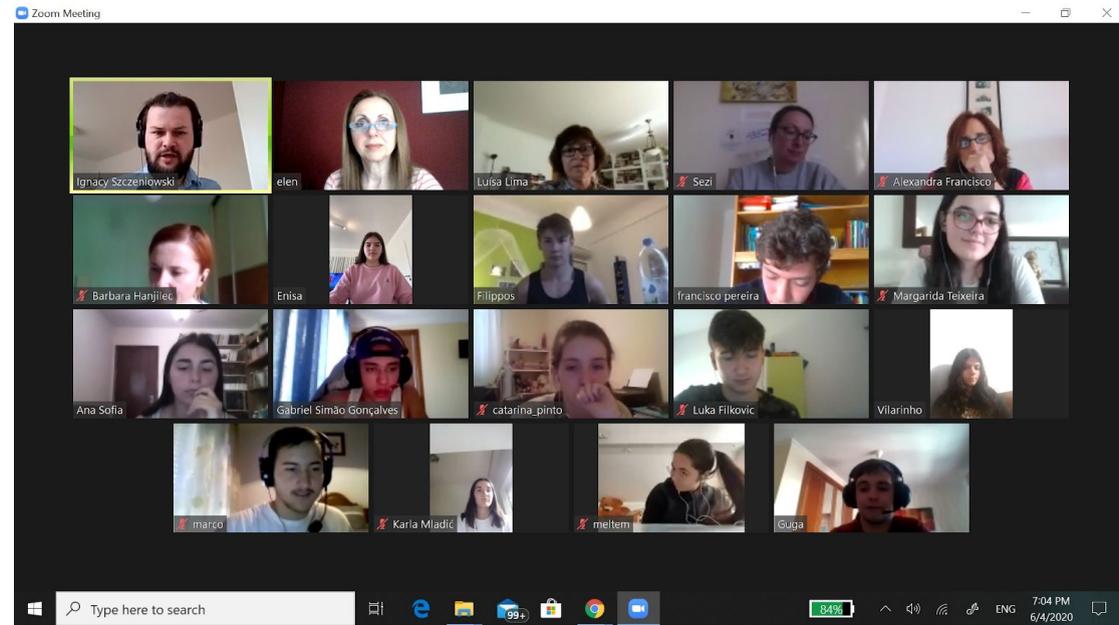
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YrkjTI1EncdkY6cF80UYOthHorYP2RpuAEg63spuvmA/edit?usp=sharing>

Students eagerly met online on their own, daily, to get ready and with their coordinating teachers twice a week. We all enjoyed these meetings which proved to be an opportunity to meet each other in a more relaxed manner. We learnt about all students’ educational systems, daily routines, hobbies, interests, future studies’ plans, exams, food, music, sites etc.

Students were eager to exchange information and come closer to each other. They overcame any language barriers easily and used English language and technology to openly communicate with each other in a civil and friendly way. It is a win win experience at many levels!

Students came out of this learning experience more confident and clear about themselves and with many new friends.

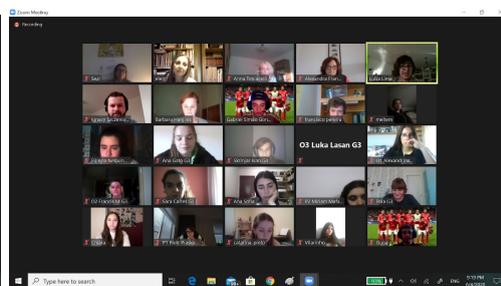
Teachers also benefited immensely both personally and professionally.



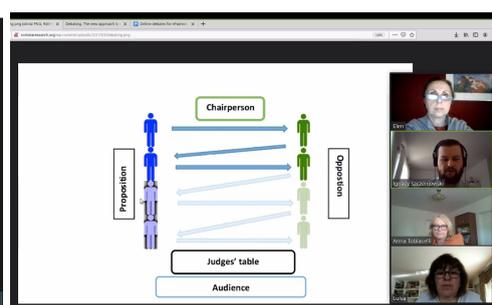
2nd debate groups 1 -2



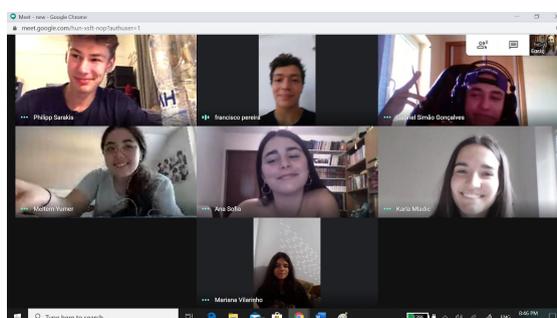
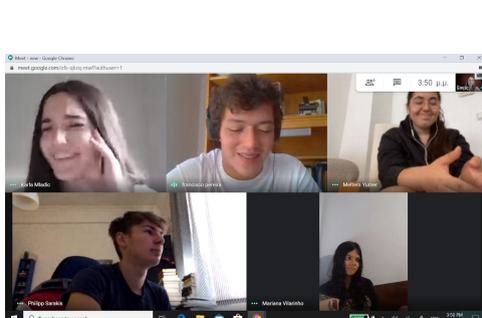
2nd debate groups 1 -2



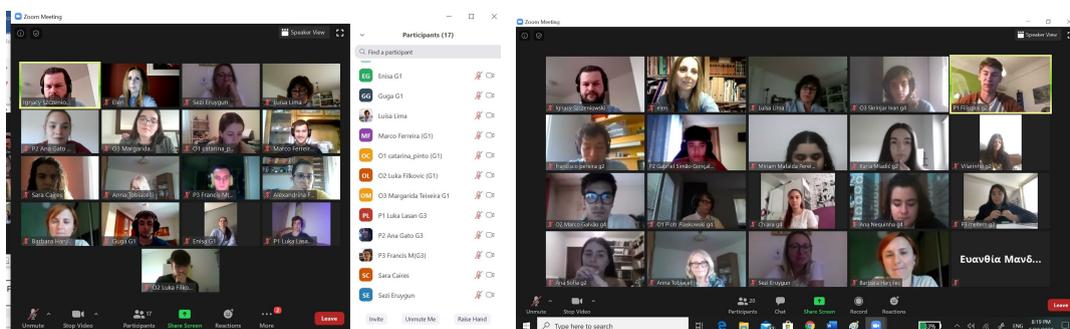
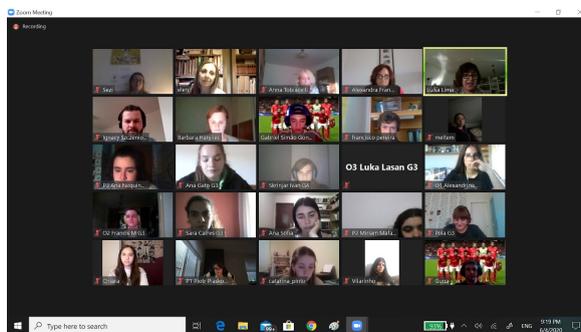
2nd debate groups 3 - 4



teachers' meetings



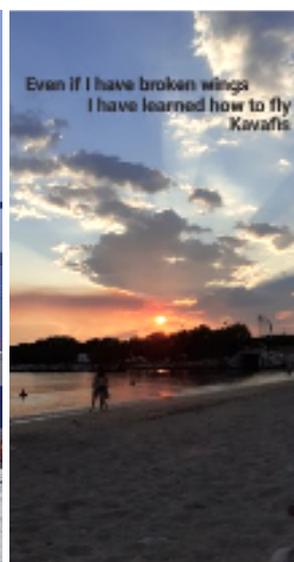
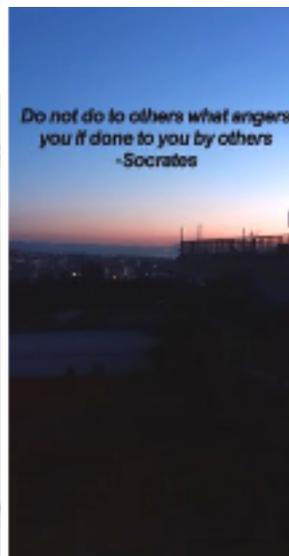
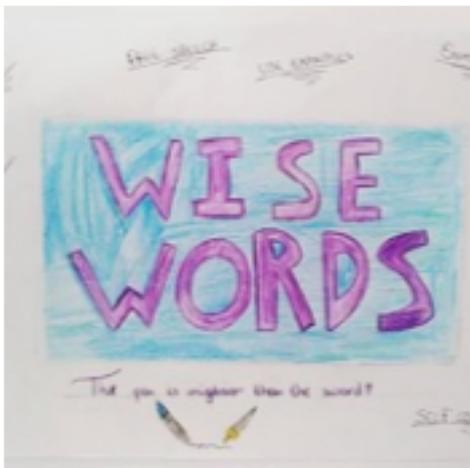
our group 2 members

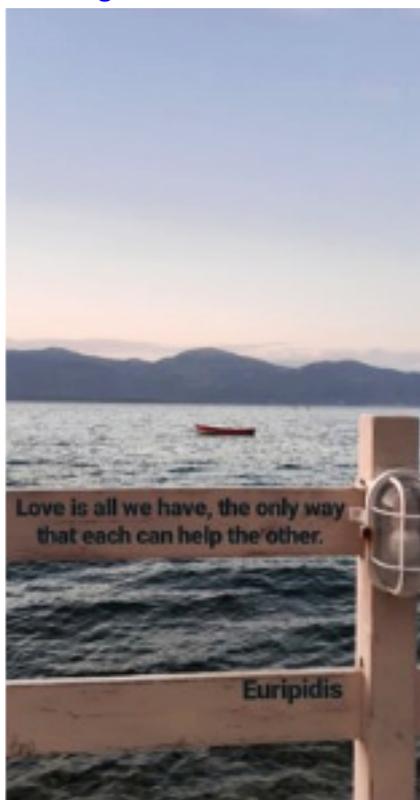


1st debate groups 1 -3

1st debate groups 2 -4

Some of **our school activities** involved making short videos on issues of concern, writing our own quotes, taking photos and making posters with our quotes, exchanging positive messages in writing and observing their impact on recipients and creators, using creativity and various art forms, forming debate groups, learning about debate regulations, preparing arguments for and against, preparing presentations, taking photos of the process, making posters, making logos for the project, participating in online discussions & meetings, using ICT, using English language, participating in the final online debates among all partners etc. Overall a fruitful learning experience.





photos by students - added quotes of Greek Philosophers, Poets, Writers

All partners disseminate their work to their school community and broader.

Following are links to our partners' schools' sites on eTwinning

Greece - 17ο Γενικό Λύκειο Αθηνών, <http://17lyk-athin.att.sch.gr/>

Croatia - <http://tabulanova.sudigoz.hr/2020/06/12/wise-words-moj-prvi-etwinning-projekt/>

Portugal, Braganca - <http://aeemidiogarcia.pt/acontecendo-na-escola/>

Portugal, Madeira - <https://ebsgzarco.pt/index.php>

Poland - <https://slojedyanka.pl/aktualnosci/63-projekt-etwinning-wise-words>

Germany -

<https://otto-hahn-schule.eu/home/news/datum/02/07/2020/wise-words-ein-etwinning-projekt?cHash=cc73595e9d2cc6d9520d423497a1ff86>

The screenshot shows the eTwinning TwinSpace homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, PAGES, MATERIALS, FORUM, ONLINE MEETINGS, and MEMBERS. Below the navigation bar, the 'Wise Words' section is highlighted. It features a circular illustration of a city with books and a globe. To the right of the illustration, there is a text block describing the project's goal: 'The ability to communicate effectively is essential. Being able to express one's opinion, be it in writing or speaking, to find the best arguments and evidence to support them, to structure one's line of thought and present a logical, well-constructed, vocabulary-rich and persuasive text is paramount in many situations. The goal of our project is to encourage students to speak, to become more autonomous and think critically about the world around them. We hope our project will contribute to make our students citizens who can reason, articulate, listen, respond, lead and ultimately respect the others.'

This screenshot shows a specific page on the eTwinning TwinSpace website. The browser address bar indicates the URL: 'vinspace.etwinning.net/90913/pages/page/673912'. The page title is '17ο Γενικό Λύκειο...'. The navigation bar is identical to the previous screenshot. The main content area is titled 'Project Plan' and contains a list of pages on the left and a detailed text block on the right. The 'Project Plan' list includes: 'Our logo', 'Partner Meetings', 'Let's get to know each other', 'The Pen is Mightier than the Sword', 'It got to me', 'Proverbs and idiomatic expressions', 'The power of words - dangerous and impactful books', 'A good speech can move mountains', and 'Voices over bullets'. The 'Project Overview' text block states: 'The ability to communicate effectively is one of the most important skills now and one that may influence our life. Being able to express one's opinion, be it in writing or speaking, to find the best arguments and evidence to support them, to structure one's line of thought and present a logical, well-constructed, vocabulary-rich and persuasive text / speech is paramount in many situations. The ability to use one's voice, body language and understanding of your audience is also important when speaking in public and debating. It can make the difference when presenting one's work'.