

The Elexalde high school will conclude in May the European project 'Discover and share your identity mark', launched in 2018 in collaboration with Katerini school in Greece and which will be closed three years later: "After almost three years, the students of Elexalde will close a unique and unforgettable experience".

Throughout the project we have been able to deepen our roots, share everything we created with our Greek partners and enjoy the Greek culture ", explains Gemma Gutiérrez, English teacher at the Elexalde high school.

Specifically, the project was developed in English by ESO students: "The project started with 3rd ESO students and continued with 4th ESO students. As a result of the pandemic, we extended the project for nine months, so new students from DBH-2 and DBH-4 were added ", explains Gutiérrez.

Teachers of other subjects participated in the project and the content of the project was related to the cultural, natural, maritime and historical-architectural heritage.

"We carried out several activities, as well as a book of recipes of typical Greek and Basque foods that we invite you to taste. They had the opportunity to practice rural sports in the Basque Country and they taught them to Greek students and put them into practice in the virtual mobility. In addition, they created stories from Basque mythology and heard stories of Greek gods," says Gutiérrez.

Internationalization has been one of the axes of the strategic plan of this project, which we consider important in the society in which we live. It is important that our high schools at present are opened to other realities based on our reality, and that is why we decided to complete this challenge", explains Gutiérrez

The main objective of the project was to

make our students aware of their cultural heritage, know the Greek heritage, reflect on both, share and learn from both of them with a mindset full of tolerance, respect and inequality".

PRE-PANDEMIC EXCHANGE

In total, three face-to-face meetings and a virtual meeting were held: "In the first year, teachers from the Elexalde Institute travelled to Katerini in Greece to carry out good practices between the two schools. And then, the teachers of the Katerini school made a visit to the Basque Country to get to know our school and have a first contact with our culture," explains Gutiérrez.

Also, before the pandemic, students from Galdakao travelled to Greece: "Our students will not forget the exchange with Greece before the pandemic last year. Besides they got in contact with the Greek culture, they

made very good friends and it was a valuable personal experience ".

Due to the Coronavirus, Greek students were not able to come to Galdakao: "It was a pity that, because of COVID, Greek students were not able to visit the Basque Country. We made a virtual mobility and they learned to prepare gildas and through the VR glasses they virtually toured our school and Bilbao," says Gutiérrez.

Last April the students from Galdakao met the mayor, Iñigo Hernando, who transmitted a message to the Greek students: "Galdakao will wait for you with open arms when you can come".

THE SUITCASES ARE FULL.

This interesting project began three years ago, when the Elexalde high school was elected coordinator of an Erasmus+ K229 project, and at the same time the Katerini secondary school in Greece was also chosen.

It was then that this long journey began, with empty suitcases full of illusion, suitcases that have gradually been filled with experiences and knowledge of our culture and the Greek culture ", says Gutiérrez, , that in May we will close the project 'Discover and Share your Identity Mark', although from the Elexalde high school in Galdakao they assure that they will continue collaborating with Katerini school in Greece.