

EVALUATION REPORT OF LTT MEETING IN GREECE

Project Name: Surfing Our Roots

Project Number: 2018-1-LT01-KA229-046991

Date: 30th of September - 4th of October 2019

Venue: Greece

Participating Countries: Turkey, Greece, Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal

In this meeting we aimed to explore the cultural heritage of Amaliada, Patras, ancient Olympia, ancient Elis and Greece in general, to share students' experience and outcomes, what is done at the schools, to improve students' communication and collaboration, intercultural skills, to develop digital literacy, to raise intelligence and tolerance and to gain more confidence in being a part of the Erasmus project.

It was a short-term exchange of groups of pupils. There were 4 students and 2 teachers from Hatay, Turkey, 4 students and 2 teachers from Çorum, Turkey, 3 students and 2 teachers from the Netherlands, 4 students and 2 teachers from Lithuania, 4 students and 3 teachers from Portugal and many teachers with students from Greece. All the teams arrived in Amaliada by Sunday, the 29th of September. Students and teachers met at the Amalias Hotel and host families came to pick up the students from the hotel and take them to their homes.



Monday, the 30th of September, a bus came to the hotel to take us to the partner school in Amaliada for the reception and official opening of the meeting at 9:30. Upon arrival, we were led to a meeting room to have coffee and some delicious cakes; we also had the chance to walk around the halls and see the work the students had done about the guest countries. Then, we went outside, where all the host and guest students were gathered. Mr. Georgopoulos Alexis, the headmaster of the school and Mr. Papazafeiropoulos Konstantinos gave speeches and welcomed us all in Greek and English.

After the warm welcome, we all went back inside to visit a folklore exhibition in a classroom. Next came our first work session, which went well. For an hour and a half we discussed all the points in our work agenda, as planned. Presentations were made of activities; our website and TwinSpace on eTwinning were viewed in order to perceive how far we had come and what still needed to be done. In conclusion, it was a prolific session as ideas were exchanged back and forth. While the meeting was being held, the students participated in class activities.

Once the meeting was over, we went to the City Hall to meet with the Mayor. Unfortunately, the Mayor was in Athens, so we met the deputy Mayor of Amaliada. We exchanged gifts with the members of the mayor's office and had a friendly chat about our project and visit to Amaliada. We said goodbye and went to have lunch.



After lunch, we had some free time and at 17:00, a bus came to pick us up for an athletic evening with the sports club “Koroivos” at the modern stadium. When we got to the stadium, our students were already there with their host families. All the students and some teachers participated in the sports games. It was a fun activity and in the end, everyone was a winner as the medals were distributed among all. The students went home with their host families and the teachers went back to the hotel for dinner.



Tuesday, the 1st of October, a bus picked up the teachers from the hotel at 9:20 after having picked up the students at school. We went to Patras, the third biggest city of Greece. Our first stop was the Museum of Education University of Patras. Both students and teachers had a chance to see educational antique objects in a guided and detailed tour; a historical overview of the school from the past to nowadays. We were also able to see a replica of an Antikythera mechanism, what may have been the first calculating machine/computer, dating back to around the 1st century B.C.

Our next stop was the Archaeological Museum of Patras, where everyone walked around and viewed various objects from the pre-historical, Mycenaean and Roman periods. Then, we went to visit Achaia Clauss, the oldest winery in Greece and had a guided tour.

We headed back to downtown Patras for lunch and some free time around the city. At 17:00 we returned to Amaliada and later had dinner at the “Greek Taverna”. It was an interesting and educational day, allowing the guest students and teachers to learn and witness up close more about Greek culture.



Wednesday, the 2nd of October, teachers and students headed to ancient Olympia to visit the Archaeological place of Ancient Olympia. There was a guided tour to the Temple of Zeus, the Gym and the altar of Hera, where the Olympic flame lights up every 4 years for the Summer Olympics. We saw the sanctuary of Hera, the Philippeion, the Nymphaeum, the Leonidion and the stadium, designed to accommodate 40,000 spectators.



Then, we went to the Museum of Ancient Olympia and glimpsed objects from prehistoric time to the Roman era, until the 6th and 7th centuries A.D. Highlights of this museum were: the bronze collection, one of the most important collections in the world, the statues of Hermes of Praxiteles and of the Goddess Nike, the pediments of the temple of Zeus and the cup that belonged to Phidias.

Before our departure from Olympia, there was time for lunch and to walk about the village.

In the evening, at 18:00, we visited the beachside, where our students were with their host families, enjoying the sand and sea. At 20:00, we had dinner at the hotel. In conclusion, the day, once more, proved to be instructive and relaxing, as all participants felt part of the Greek way of life, through knowledge and interaction.



Thursday, the 3rd of October we departed to ancient Elis to watch a theatrical play at the open-air theatre of ancient Elis. The play was performed by the 4th graders of our host partner school and was called “Augean Stables”, about the labours of Hercules. Students and teachers had been given the play in English to read beforehand and were able to follow the performance, which was carried out in their native language. The students performed fantastically and enthusiastically. The passion in their voices resonated in the air. It was an excellent piece.

When the play was over, we went to the Museum of ancient Elis for a guided tour to the exhibitions. At the end, the students took part in an activity at the museum. They made paper masks to take home with them.

The whole group, then, proceeded to an archaeological place of ancient Elis for a guided tour to an ancient Greek theatre. Last place to be visited on this morning was supposed to be the Castle of Chlemouts, a castle coexisting with Greek, Frankish and Ottoman culture. Unfortunately, Zeus unleashed his lightning bolts; the weather did not cooperate. As we approached the castle, it began to rain heavily and we were only able to view it from the bus.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and at 18:00 we visited a Greek Orthodox Church “Saint George”. When we arrived, the students were there with the families and we all listened to the priest, who talked about religion and gave a brief explanation of the development of different religions throughout the ages.

Afterwards, the students went home with the host families while the teachers had dinner in Amaliada.



Friday, the 4th of October was our last day of the mobility. It started at the school with a theatrical play by the 5th graders. At the end of the play, certificates were given to the participants from each partner school as the closing ceremony. Then, students went to classes as we had our second and last meeting of the week. We shared our posters and talked about the upcoming activities. Some partner schools presented some samples of videos and images they were working on and all partner schools took decisions and set deadlines for all the tasks.

Lunch was at the hotel and in the evening we all went back to school for the closing dinner with the host families. At the dinner, host families, students and teachers all talked and had fun together, sharing some traditional dances from each country. It was a sad moment as the time to say goodbye was approaching. Hugs, tears and promises to keep in touch and meet again permeated the air that night.

A special thank you to the host families who took great care of our students, making them feel at home and providing an extraordinary experience for them, to the staff of our Greek partner school, *3o 12/Thesio Oloimero Dimotiko Sxoleio Amaliadas* for all their work in planning and programming the week and to all the partner schools for their cooperation and contribution to making this week successful in attaining its objectives.

Greek culture has influenced the world in many areas, some of them we are not aware of anymore as it has become so common. The influence it left on us this week will also vibrate throughout the coming years for all the participants, inspiring us to grow united, immersed in *nostalgia*.

“... So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea.
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.”

- William Wordsworth