



ERASMUS+ - SECOND TRANSNATIONAL TRAINING MEETING REPORT

The second transnational training meeting of the Erasmus+ project took place in Greece from the 25th February to the 1st March 2019.

The team was made up of 25 people: six members from Italy, two from Hungary, four from Bulgaria, five from Spain, five from Portugal and three coordinating teachers from Greece.

Work sessions started on February the 25th in Glyfada Kindergarten with the opening performances played by the children to welcome the guests, followed by the visit to the school sections and, after a rich coffee break, by the board games with children. Children and teachers greeted their international guests very warmly: particularly, children danced and sang in Greek and in English. Moreover, the international team could enjoy very interesting games improving different children's skills. Each member received a very nice gift bag with gadgets and games to use when back with their own pupils.

Several important events took place during the second day: the visit to the special Kindergarten School of Deaf children, in Argyroupolis. Firstly, there was a presentation by Headmistress Mrs. Karipi S.; secondly, there was the story telling activity throughout the sign language and finally, there was an interesting conference-workshop called "Educational software Games for Deaf children" about the sign language and its history and issues by Mr. Vassilis Kourbetis, Ph. D., Counsellor A of Special Education. Everything was well organized so as to let the international partners understand the importance of the necessary skills to work in such a specific school, which aims to give deaf children the possibility of getting personal autonomy and self-awareness of their identity. Where parents are often the source of a child's early acquisition of language, for children who are deaf, additional people may be models for language acquisition.

The foreign teachers could watch and learn signs made by moving the hands combined with facial expressions and postures of the body. They also could know, by debating and asking questions, that no form of sign language is universal, but different sign languages are used in different countries. Furthermore, Mr. Vassilis Kourbetis introduced statistics about deafness: 9 out of 10 children who are born deaf are born from parents who can hear. Hearing parents who choose to introduce sign language to their deaf children, often learn it along with their child.

On the 27th the international team went for a trip to Mikines and Nafplio. The teachers could visit the ancient archeological site and the Museum of Mikines, the legendary kingdom of the Atreides, with a guide. They could also admire the historical centre of Nafplio, the capital of Argolis, one of the best known and most beautiful cities in Greece. On the way to the cities on a comfortable private tourist bus, the international team could stop along the road to see the Isthmus of Corinth, popular and famous touristic destination.

On Thursday 28th February the second work session took place. During the morning, there was the discussion for the agreement among teams upon the common editing of the final survey; then, it was the time for the delivery of the Trans Europe Express game to Greece by the Hungarian group and finally the contextual delivery from Greece back to Italy for the realization of the final copies. Besides that, the teachers watched the international story "Please...Let us play!" made up by the different pieces from each school involved in the Erasmus Project and put together by the Italian team. At the end of the morning work session the diplomas (certificates of attendance for the Erasmus meeting and the conference-workshop) were delivered to all the team members.

The last day of the stay began with the visit back to Glyfada Kindergarten where the Bulgarian team kindly performed Baba Marta to celebrate the traditional welcoming festival of the upcoming spring: everyone, children and adults, received their martenitsa, the traditional





talisman made of twined red and white threads of wool, silk or cotton, which is meant to wish health, good luck and happiness to family and friends.

Then the visit of the Acropolis and its Museum followed: it was amazing! During the morning the guests visited the Museum with a highly skilled guide who showed the most important pieces of the collections and described the different stages of the Parthenon and the myths represented on its original parts kept in the Museum. The international team could see the very famous statues of the Caryatides . The lunch took place inside the same Museum , in a huge lounge with a fantastic view of the Acropolis. In the afternoon, the single groups organized their free time to visit the Acropolis : walking among the ancient Greek ruins and staring at the Parthenon felt like taking a leap into the past of one of the most important and well-known civilizations of all time!

During the whole week, each work session and each visit to the school were accompanied by very nice buffets with typical sweets and very good meals in local restaurants; teachers and pupils were very warm and friendly and all details were very accurate.

The project meeting ended with a very folkloristic dinner at the “Horos ton gefseon” restaurant, with traditional Greek food, music and dances. There, Mrs Luciana Billi, as headmistress of the leading school “Leonardo da Vinci Institute” of Acquapendente (VT) Italy, thanked the Greek team in the name of all the guests for the warm welcoming , the productive cooperation and the great organization of those days together.