



news from european classrooms

Project Coordinator's Message



Dear Readers,

We started the second year of the Erasmus+ project "Development and Implementation of Innovative Methods of Teaching in the Multicultural European Classroom to Increase Student Literacy and Prevent Early School Leaving". In October we had the fourth transnational meeting in Cyprus and now we offer to your attention the second edition of our project newsletter devoted to Cyprus.

Ludmila Renge, Project Coordinator

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Aim and Objectives of the Project



Aim

- Exploration of teaching tools and social innovations that will support low achievers, immigrants and multiculturalism in the European classroom and prevent early school leaving.

Objectives

- To investigate the ethnic composition, students' learning success of partner schools in Portugal, Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Croatia and Latvia and the problems/difficulties that lead immigrants, Roma and other low achievers to early school leaving.
- To develop, implement and share innovative methods of teaching.
- To encourage students to view language literacy as being useful to all citizens and thus enhance literacy and increase the number of students who acquire compulsory education successfully.
- To elaborate ICT learning and teaching tools: CD-ROMs with virtual excursions, GPRS maps, mobile phone applications for Math, Science and Language lessons.
- Through this project we hope to help students to finish school successfully, to enhance their motivation, tolerance and inter-cultural competences.
- To develop, test and implement innovative approaches in teaching Maths, Science and Foreign and schooling languages.

Important outcomes expected in this project include the availability of lesson plans and resources for other teachers and the increase of teachers' professional competences.

The pedagogical staff of participating schools intends to implement, improve the resources in their everyday practice, disseminate among the colleagues. We believe it is crucially important to work in that direction because it encourages improvement of personal, professional and social competences of all participants.

For presentations, photos and more, please visit: <http://erasmus.pdps.lv/>





LATVIA

School name: Rigas Paraugavas Pamatskola

Headteacher: Irena Shinkareva

Coordinator: Ludmila Renge



CROATIA

School name: Osnovna Skola Marjan

Headteacher: Zdenka Barović

Coordinator: Zvonimir Vuković



GERMANY

School name: Stadtische Adolf-Reichwein - Gesamtschule

Headteacher: Frank Bisterfeld

Coordinator: Ralph David



PORTUGAL

School name: Agrupamento De Escolas Gaia Nascente

Headteacher: Sergio Afonso

Coordinators: Maria Naïr Fontes/Laura Castro Moreira



ICELAND

School name: Grunnskollinn a Isafirdi

Headteacher: Sveinfriour Veturloadottir

Coordinator: Halla Guðbjörg



CYPRUS

School name: Gymnasio Palouriotissas

Headteacher: David David

Coordinator: Christina Chimaridou

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016

Written by the Latvian Team



Brief description of the school

We visited Palouriotissa Gymnasium - the Lower Secondary School in the center of Nicosia.

The school has many premises, nice large classrooms, wide corridors and an amazing hall with a stage, where students can have a rest or spend time with their teachers having some rehearsals if they are necessary. All doors are open so students can go out and breathe fresh air, of course, the weather suits for this kind of activity. Students have a school uniform, they look nice and it unites them, identifying with the appropriate school. At PE lessons boys and girls do sports separately, it also gives teachers the opportunity to realize their teaching program more precisely.



Our Erasmus+ headmasters



Visiting the immigrants class

We attended a lesson where immigrants and refugees were taught, there were two Russian-speaking boys: one- from Russia, another one- from Ukraine. They liked their school very much, but the Greek Language is quite difficult for them to learn, despite of the teachers' support.



Talking in German



Learning Greek



The students made presentations on Healthy Food; it was a really great scientific research with theoretical background and practical part where students had healthy breakfast every morning.



Playing music

We also visited music events, saw nice pictures on the walls of the school and we were really impressed to find the flag of our country with greeting words in Latvian!

We noticed that the authority of the school and the main staff encourage students to become the active members of European Society having a pride of being persons of Greek origin.



Learning art

PARTICIPANTS

Latvia

- Ludmilla Renge,
- Irena Shinkareva
- Yelena Chernakova
- Liena Bizune
- Tatjana Moisejeva

Portugal

- Sérgio Afonso
- Maria João Rios
- Maria Nair Fontes.

Croatia

- Zdenka Barović
- Zvonimir Vuković

Cyprus

- David David
- Christina Chimaridou
- Eva Adamou
- Nona Moleski
- Eleni Mitsidou

Germany

- Ralph David
- Markus Ignatzek

Iceland

- Bryndís Bjarnason
- Bergljót Halldórsdóttir

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



Presentations

The two major topics of the presentations of all the participating partners were:

1. Presenting of a teaching tool aimed to achieve the goals of the project
2. Results of piloting of the project Chemistry Through Music

The participants took part in active discussions after each presentation and a written feedback from all partners was also given to each team.

All the presentations can be found on http://erasmus.pdps.lv/_private/text/cyprus4.htm

Cyprus presented "Innovating Method of teaching Greek Literature". A drama method was used by poet Eleni Vakalo. The goals of the presented lesson were to give students the opportunity to:

- Achieve drama skills through literature.
- Familiarize with social problems and how to approach universal values.
- Express their feelings and connect them through the literary text they will read.
- Express their feelings, reactions and interpretations before, during and after the reading of the poem.

Drama in Education refers to artistic activity where participants can role-play situations, act out imaginary scenarios, or demonstrate fictitious images for the purposes of insight and growth. All drama activities lead to better understanding of poem idea, personal development and acquiring of language.



Presentation of Cyprus team



At the meeting

The participants from Iceland showed us part of their work on Icelandic literature and literary tourism.

The goal of the work is to introduce various kinds of Icelandic literature to other kids of the same age.

- Where are they originated, in which situation do they happen.
- What affects Icelandic literature: weather, landscape, geographical situation, economy?

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



Presentation of Iceland team



At the meeting

- To be able to write a text in English about various subjects and introduce to other people Icelandic sagas are stories that happen in the old days in Iceland and Scandinavia. They are about settlers and settlement. It is also about how people were in the age of settlement.

Latvia presented a multimedia guide in mathematics for pupils in grades 1-4 "Vadim is learning mathematics at elementary school". The tool has been developed for drilling and testing the mathematical skills and the development of logical thinking for children who have problems in understanding and assimilation of the material, children with low level of development or students taught in a foreign language.

Teachers can work with students individually at the computer or using an interactive white-board frontally.



Presentations of Latvia team



Presentations of Latvia team

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



Presentations of Germany team

Germany presented the approach "Teaching language" to teaching spelling to refugees. It is a special lesson "Language" which was introduced at Städtische Adolf-Reichwein-Gesamtschule several years ago and helped the students with migrant background to finish successfully and go onto the next higher level. Lessons in a new subject called "language", where the teachers try to enhance the linguistic competence in the German language of our younger German and multicultural students, who often have difficulties in understanding texts/producing texts.

The method works to enable migrant children who use a language at home different to the language of school instruction to participate in learning, attain proficiency in the language of instruction, and achieve results (qualifications, progress to higher education, progress to employment) that match their potential.

The approach got an award for "language sensitive teaching" and the subject "language" that was developed at Städtische Adolf-Reichwein-Gesamtschule is now standard at many other schools. Both should help the students with essential basic linguistic qualifications that will make it easier for him to read, understand and produce texts of all kinds in all subjects.

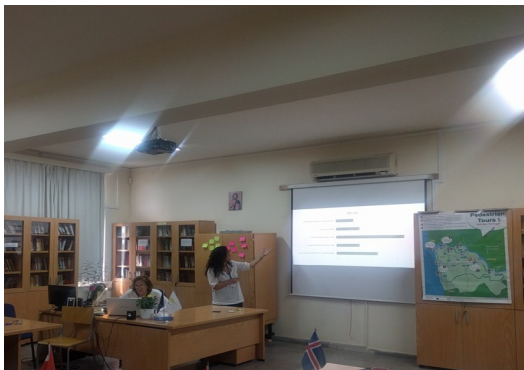


Presentations of Croatian team

Croatia prepared two presentations :"

The project of making traditional cap of people of Split" and another project "The dowry of our grandmothers". The objectives of the projects were to develop awareness about preservation of cultural heritage, to encourage entrepreneurial spirit and creativity. These both cross curricula projects involved integration of many subjects and skills: Croatian language, history, literature, mathematics, physical education, handicraft. Students participated in such activities as visiting Ethnographical

Museum, studying literature on national costume and traditions, studying of family heritage, tailoring, sewing. Children learnt from the elderly adoption the imperishable values of their cultural heritage.



Presentations of Portugal team

Portugal held the research "Have the new technologies an impact on mobility and integration?". The survey on usefulness of GPS in everyday life was held among twenty-nine 11-13 year students from the European Club, including those with migrant background. These students were involved in practical activity with the task to find different 3 different objects with the GPS help.



The project participants also took part in piloting of the Portuguese Project "Chemistry for Music". This cross curricula project has such objectives as:

- Teach chemistry through music as an innovating teaching method.
- Motivate students to complete their education successfully.
- Develop cooperative and collaborative practices and this way is related to the topic of our main project.

That is why our team decided to undertake a piloting of it. Four countries presented the results:Latvia, Portugal, Iceland and Cyprus. It is worth to mention that at each school the initial procedure, offered by Portugal was adopted according to students abilities and more teachers' help was provided

Here we place some examples of students' poems about chemical elements .Later students made songs using these poems.

Examples from Cyprus team work:

Βισμούθιο

Ένα λεπτό να συστηθώ
Είμαι το βισμούθιο το
λαμπερό
Τα καλλυντικά αγαπώ
Και κει θα με βρείτε δυ-
νατό!

Bi - Bismuth

Give me a second
To introduce myself
I'm the shiny bismuth
I love cosmetics and
there you will find me
sitting
on my chair



Presentation of music project

Examples from Latvian team work:

Сера (Sulphur-S)

Сера, сера, буква S!
Не ходи за нею в лес!
Встретишь ты её в вулкане, в
сыре, в ягодах, в банане!
Как янтарь S хороша,
Организмам всем нужна!
На здоровье влияет, красотю
управляет!

Sulfur, sulfur, the letter S!
Do not look for it in the woods!
You can meet it in the volcano, in
the cheese, berries and banana!
As an amber S is good
Human Bodies need it!
Our health and beauty depends
on it!

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



Program

The program was full of superlative events; we visited many interesting places which could help us to get involved into the life of Cyprus.

Welcome meeting at school was amazing: children, wearing their national costumes with traditional Cyprus food, met us in the school hall with melodic Greek songs.



Welcome Meeting

Members of Erasmus+ also visited Nicosia Municipality; it was a great honor for us to visit such a place. There we learnt some cognitive facts about Cyprus and Nicosia. We also visited Leventis Municipal Museum; we had the opportunity to learn about the history of Nicosia and the objects which represented the life of Cypriots. These exhibits took us on a journey through Nicosia's history, the history which began 1800000 years ago.

In the evening, Cyprus team hosted a welcome dinner in a traditional tavern (restaurant) in the heart of the city.



Nicosia old town market



Nicosia old church 'Tripiotis'

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



Welcome dinner



Nicosia old town tour

A big honor for all project group was invitation to school event devoted to Greece "Ohi Day". The word 'Ohi' simply means 'No'. It is the word Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas used in 1940 to Mussolini's spokesperson when asked if Axis forces could use Greek territory to gain access to areas of Europe not already occupied by Hitler and Mussolini. Metaxas stalwartly said 'No!'. Cities and towns across Cyprus and Greece celebrate "Ohi Day" with student parades that close down most centers. In Nicosia, Cyprus, school students and veterans march in a parade and carry banners and the flags of Cyprus and Greece. At school we could see that all students, teachers knew respected Greece history and were proud of their country.



Greece celebration for "Ohi Day"

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



Erasmus + members also visited the archaeological remains of Kourion - which was one of the island's most important city-kingdoms in antiquity which is quite high up and overlooking the sea. There were terrific views, very interesting remains in a lovely location. The theatre was very impressive.

We also visited Kolossi Castle. This Castle was constructed in the 13th century, but it looks well today with really impressive square shape. It's a very well built castle similar to a tower, which reminds us any similar tower in Europe.

Limassol Marina is a really luxury place, it's a part of the old port which has been rebuilt and hosts many luxury marine services.



Kourion



Limassol marina



4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



The Friendship evening on the last day was very special. The teachers prepared an interesting program with national songs and dances . Delicious Cyprus food made us feel the taste of Cyprus .The event passed in a friendly atmosphere and left unforgettable memories.



Friendship dinner at school



Impressions of the participants

Croatia

We would like to express our gratitude for the exceptional hospitality you showed us during our meeting in Nicosia. We felt right at home because of the relaxed atmosphere in which everything was done so perfectly. You should feel proud about your school and how well it is organized which is a great credit to Mr. David as an excellent headmaster.

Cyprus is a beautiful country and the people are so friendly and helpful, we truly enjoyed each day we spent there.

We can't wait to see you all in Riga.

Latvia

On behalf of our big Latvian team I would like to express our gratitude for your amazing hospitality and wonderful days we spent at your school .

I would like to express our appreciation of the outstanding service that all staff of your school provided that week. The meeting was amazingly well planned and organized. Your team was very attentive and helpful.

We are fascinated with your school achievements and wish your school teachers and students a big success and prosperity.

Germany

The German team wants to say thank you once again for a great time we had on the island of Cyprus. The three of you and the rest of staff at Paloyriotissa Gymnasium did a great job in organizing this eventful and really interesting week. We met so many friendly and welcoming people at your school and had many interesting conversations about Erasmus, school, life in Cyprus and the political situation there.

You were the perfect hosts with a perfect organization, we will never forget the fantastic Erasmus Party on Thursday night.

We would like to wish you a bright and safe future in Cyprus.

Portugal

Dear partners

What fantastic a Erasmus + week!

We were hosted as friends / family and were very well treated.

The stay in Cyprus has strengthened the friendship that bind us and make us believe in Europe as a common project of peoples of good will.

The story your country moved us and approached us.

It was in fact a single meeting that it will remain forever in our memory.

A special thank you to David, Cristina and Eve and the whole group of teachers, students and staff who made possible this memorable meeting.

A big hug from the Portuguese team and see you all in Riga.

4th Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2016



A note from Ludmila Renge

The program impressed us very much: great historical places, hot weather, and warm company of creative, experienced, open-minded teachers from different countries, whose innovative ideas we brought to our school and were happy to share them with our Latvian colleagues. All the time spending with our Erasmus friends was amazing, full of positive emotions, new ideas and thoughts. Our Cyprus partners' meeting was marvelous, we spent four fantastic days in a friendly atmosphere with every minute support of our Cyprus friends and we left this country with the love to Cyprus!



Erasmus+



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Math, Science and Languages in the Multicultural European Classroom,
to Increase Student Literacy and Prevent Early School Leaving

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LATVIA · CROATIA · CYPRUS · GERMANY · ICELAND · PORTUGAL

<http://erasmus.pdps.lv/>



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