



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4/2021

The official newsletter of the ACE Erasmus+Project

WHAT'S NEW IN ERASMUS?

It's time to sum up four intensive months of work in the project "Active, Creative, Enterprising". Since September, despite many problems and limitations, we have managed to do a lot. We hope that the rest of this school year will be at least as effective. There are eight months left until the end of work on the project, but we have much less time for the implementation of tasks, because we have to finish them and sum them up by May.

What has been done? Completing work on the tasks "My first business" and "Locally active" was a huge success. The results of our activities were presented in Romania (in October) and in Greece (in November). The organization of international meetings was associated with a great effort on the part of the host schools. Thank you very much for your effort and hospitality. In this issue of the Newsletter you will find many references to these events.

What are we planning to do during the next few months? Soon we will summarize the task "Educational games". We plan to present its effects during a short-term exchange of groups of students in Rosolini, Sicily. There is a lot of work done on film-interviews with entrepreneurs who have turned their passions into a thriving business. We also collect educational materials that will be included in the guide for teachers. This publication will be a summary of all our activities in this project. We are also planning a final meeting hosted by Terrassa in Catalonia.

I encourage you to carefully read the student impressions.

Adam Bech

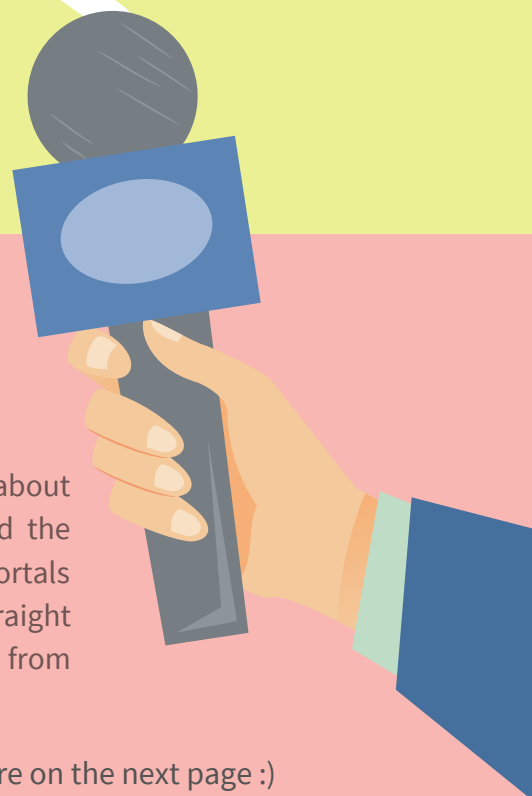
project coordinator

DEBINKA'S TRIP TO ROMANIA

LET ME JUST SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT BRAVE ADVENTURERS IN THE TRANSYLVANIAN LAND.

This is probably how Bram Stoker would have started his next story about Count Dracula. We know, however, that this author significantly missed the truth in his description of the history of Vlad Țepeș, known to ordinary mortals as Vlad the Impaler or precisely Vlad Dracula. Descriptions of Romania straight from horror novels and our ideas about this country differed significantly from the realities we encountered.

However, we have to start our history from the beginning... (read more on the next page :)

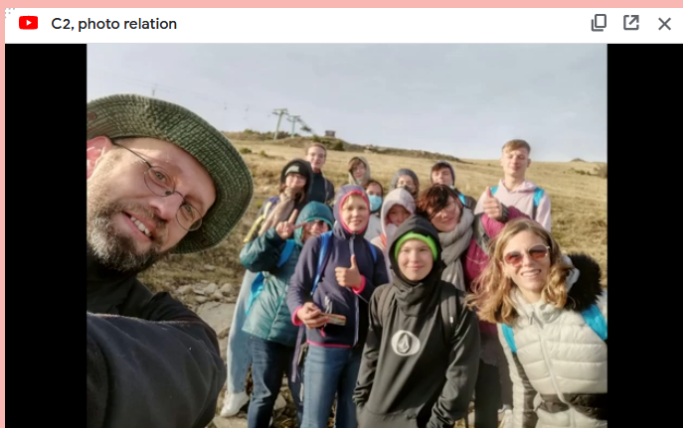




DEBINKA'S TRIP TO ROMANIA

However, we have to start our history from the beginning... What brought us to the Balkans? As every reader probably remembers, our school participates in two Erasmus + projects. Our trip to Romania was therefore the result of international cooperation as part of the educational project "**Active, creative, entrepreneurial**". Originally our trip was planned for spring 2020. Due to the pandemic, we had to wait for it for over a year.

The destination of our trip was the town of Năsăud located in the historic Transylvania, i.e. Transylvania. The time spent in Romania was special for us. It is obvious that we have practiced our knowledge of foreign languages. Equally obvious is gaining new skills and summarizing the tasks we performed in the past year. What is more important ... During the trip we met many people and we found out that the stereotypes are far from the truth about this amazing and beautiful country. We were delighted with the Transylvanian cuisine, hospitality, folklore colors, the diversity of architecture and magnificent monuments. The amazing landscape we saw every day from a different perspective will remain in our memory for a long time. We invite you to see the photo report and the video summarizing our trip:



The full report can be found here:



DISCOVERING ROMANIA

Romania surprised us very positively. The idea we had was a country of emigrants and therefore we imagined it to be rather poor.

The area of Bistrita and specifically Nasaud is located in the north very close to the mountains. It's cold, even though it's early October, but it contrasts with the warmth and hospitality with which our hosts have welcomed us.

Mihail Eminescu School is a very large and old school, built in the 1920s, and located in the center of Nasaud. During our stay we were able to meet some Romanian students but especially students and teachers from Poland and Italy. The Greeks, although we contacted them online, were unable to come due to the pandemic.





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We learned that Romanians are quite religious and highly value their traditions, as we visited a monastery and many Orthodox churches, some of them made of wood completely covered with beautiful paintings inside. We also discovered the cemeteries, very different from ours, and a hotel inspired by the most universal Romanian character, Blad Dracul.

Because the project we are working on is about entrepreneurship, we have visited several people who have turned their passion into business such as chef Nina Rus, the pastry chef from Mon Jardin or a designer of typical Romanian costumes.

We enjoyed its landscape, its people and its culture, we ate delicious food, sang and danced a lot and we learned that despite all of us are from different countries we enjoy and have fun with the same things.



THE GREEK DAY IN POLAND



On Monday, November 15th in "Dębinka" as part of the "ACE" project, the Greek Day was held, preceding the departure of a group of students to Agria in the Greek Thessaly. That day we dressed in the colors of the Greek flag - blue and white, and we put on laurel wreaths. A Greek flag was hung at the entrance to the school. We decorated school corridors with posters with information about Greece. In this way, we presented basic data on geography, culture, traditional dishes and various interesting facts. There were also lessons on this topic in many classes. Our school kitchen served Greek dishes - you could buy delicious Baklava or Souvlaki.

Here you can find full report:





GREEK DAY IN ESCOLA EL CIM

The meeting of Greece was preceded by “Greek Day” at Escola el Cim in Terrassa.

At first, students brainstormed about possible country information to include in the project, and they wrote it on the whiteboard. After that, they shared a wide range of information (the capital, location, language, currency, popular sights, weather, animals, holidays/festivals and sports) and prepared a poster, in which the students had to present their knowledge and conclusions about Greece.

To sum up, we learned a wide variety of contents about Greece, such as geography, history, cuisine, traditions and culture.



MY ONLINE C2 MEETING EXPERIENCE *thoughts of a greek student*

Unfortunately, in September 2021 due to the pandemic our school, Gymnasio Agria, decided to avoid travelling to Romania. So we attended the Erasmus program online.

It was an unusual experience as we worked with students from abroad while we were at school. I felt quite comfortable and safe with the decision to stay in Greece but on the other hand I felt that it was not the same as really visiting the country like the rest of the children did. In fact, when I saw photos of the places they visited, the dishes they tasted, the friends they made, I was a bit jealous...



Anyway, it was better than expected and I felt that the teachers of the other countries did their best to involve us in any possible workshops like creating a poster for World Teachers Day, a video with questions about freelancing and of course the presentations of our first business.

I hope that one day the problem of the pandemic will end so that we will all be able to travel to every country we want!

Varvara Iatropoulou



VISITING THESSALY

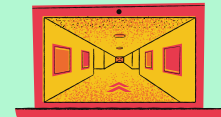
In November 2021, the third meeting of students and teachers in the Erasmus + project "Active, creative, entrepreneurial" implemented by our school together with partners from Italy, Greece, Romania and Spain took place. The Polish delegation consisted of five students and two teachers.

The program of the meeting was very rich. There was also an official welcome at Gimnasio Agrias, integration activities and a presentation about Thessaly.

Our Greek friends made sure that we got to know both Greek culture and cuisine, as well as the immediate surroundings of Agria. We had the opportunity to meet interesting people and visit local businesses. Obviously, the most important event was the presentation of the results of our work on the "Local Active" task. Each of the teams presented their achievements in this area and discussed the way of carrying out the task.

What did this trip give us? We summed up another Erasmus task and saw what our partners did as part of its implementation. We also gained many beautiful memories and met wonderful people with whom we would like to keep in touch. This journey will surely remain in the memory of each of us for a long time.

We invite you to see photos of the task "Active locally":



LOCALLY ACTIVE IN TERRASSA

At El Cim School we have been volunteering in all high school groups with Community Learning and Service activities for at least nine years. These activities are diverse and range from food collection for the food pantry of our city, collection of toys during the Christmas period for families without financial resources, organizing a donation campaign for the Blood Bank and finally a collaboration with an organization to help people with intellectual disabilities.

At the end of last year and as part of the Erasmus + project, the students involved in the project received a talk "Volunteer, make a difference" and then participated in a campaign to replant trees in a green area out of Terrassa that lacks trees and is in the process of being rebuilt.

This year, the students have worked on the creation of brochures and infographics in which they should introduce the information needed to disseminate the volunteer activities that young people can carry out in our city. These works have been sent to the coordinator of voluntary organizations in Terrassa.



ESCOLA EL CIM IN THE MEETING IN GREECE

From 21st to 27th November 2021, a group of students from Escola El Cim, in Catalonia, had the opportunity to visit Agria, in Greece. We were very happy, because at last, after the Covid-19 pandemic, we were at their destination, really looking forward to meeting our European partners in the project.

That week we could visit the most emblematic places in Agria and the beautiful nearby town of Volos. We could try Greek cuisine and share great moments with our friends from different countries in Europe.

During our stay in Agria, they visited its school, which we thought was a bit old. However, they found the different classrooms, and especially the assessment system, very interesting, because its rating was different from ours.



The working sessions at school were not too hard. The presentations of the different tasks were very interesting, especially those dealing with the Locally Active activities. They learnt about the different actions that the partner schools had done to promote the goal of being locally active.

All the workshops in general were very entertaining, because they had a good time with the Romanian, Polish, Greek and Italian groups. They found the presentation of the mountain climber expert really attractive too, because they were very interested in what life was like in the mountains. The activities about the puppets were interesting too, because they offered the students the possibility to find out what Greek culture was like.

They also visited the archaeological museum of Volos, where all the pieces in the museum were original. They really liked the museum because it was very beautiful, especially the original jewelry from the ancient Greeks. The Brick and Tile Factory Museum in Volos, as well as the visit to the Local Organic Oregano Essential Oil Company in Volos were entertaining, and the students enjoyed them a lot.

The weather during the week though was bad, because it rained all day, which meant they couldn't do one of the top activities, which was a visit to a horse riding club, but they had a great time anyway.



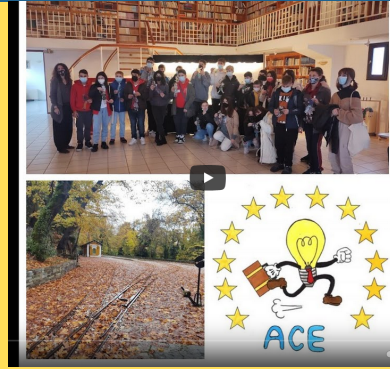
IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES

This year I had a very pleasant experience in Greece. I attended an Erasmus project meeting. I was well received by the students and teachers of this spectacular country.

I really enjoyed being here, socializing, making friends and doing well considering that I was without my family. There were interesting and creative workshops that help us improve our skills. I visited a brick factory where I discovered some very interesting machines. It was fun here with some wonderful people.

I would like to repeat this experience!

Student,
Ciuta Niculina Teodora



City Quest

What impressed me from the mobility from Greece was the City Quest and I think it was a lot of fun. This activity was carried out in such a way as to arouse our interest, to develop our ability to work in a team and to encourage competitiveness.

We were given some clues, in order to find representative buildings, churches, monuments, statues from Volos. We started at the museum. We had to ask questions to people from Volos to solve some of the clues. We asked in a café and the port in order to solve the last requirements.

I was very happy when I solved the last clue and we found the “secret word”. This activity has certainly helped most of us with our social skills, it helped us make friends and improve our English.

Greece, I can hardly wait to visit you again!

Student,
Emanuel Greabu

This mobility was one of the most complex and interesting experiences I have had, as a student and future active citizen, involved and part of my local community.

The way the activities and workshops were organized made me realize the importance of a local community and the way each of us gets involved in its development, by starting a local business or by getting involved in volunteer activities. I also liked the local landscape and culture of Greece, as well as the hospitality of the Greek people.

I found the ice-breaking games and the self-presentations, accompanied by a representative photo of everyone's hobbies, very interesting. They helped get to know each other and communicate easily in the following activities.

I would definitely repeat this experience!

Student: Giulia Maria Nascutiu

For me, this was the first Erasmus + mobility I attended. It was a wonderful experience, considering the wonderful country in which the meeting took place, the welcoming hosts and the sociability of the participating countries.

All project activities were unique! I had a lot to learn. We visited beautiful places, and implicitly, the location of Agria, where the host school of the project was, next to the sea and the mountains, was a spectacular one.

I enjoyed the City Quest experience in the port of Volos. It was designed to arouse our interest, to develop our ability to work in a team, and also to encourage competitiveness.

I enjoyed meeting students of my age, from other participating countries, discussing about how they get involved in their community, and about our common interests.

Student, Dan Sofia Maria



IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES

Impressions from Greece

The participation in the third mobility of the Erasmus+ Programme, Active Creative Enterprising was one of the most interesting experiences in my life. I enjoyed taking part in the activities of the project and I totally liked being part of the Romanian team, together with my colleagues and teachers, and of course, being part of the big European team of the ACE project. I learned a lot of new things about how we can get involved in our community in order to make a difference. No matter how small our contribution is, together we can achieve great things. I was impressed by the communicative skills and kindness of the students involved in the project, feeling that working together, we were part of something big and important.

The ice-breaking activities proposed by the meeting coordinator helped us get to know each other and feel like a community, and the “Locally active” workshop was an opportunity for us to learn that we are similar in many aspects, but also different in some ways, but that didn’t stop us to learn from each other.

I liked all the activities from the mobility in Greece, whether there were workshops, visits, speeches, the day trip or the city quest. I enjoyed the most visiting to the Archeological Museum and the Rooftile and Brick Museum from Volos, as I am a museum fan.

In the future, I want to learn more about the Greek history and culture and to get involved in my local community as the mobility in Greece constituted the starting point for these personal goals.

Student: Muthi Razvan



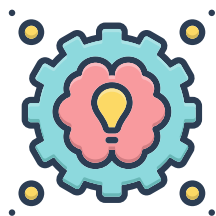
An example of good practice

The days I spent in Greece in November were spectacular in many ways. First of all, the way the whole mobility was organized was impeccable. The hosts set everything up to the smallest details. The activities chosen were very appropriate for the specifics of the project and the theme of mobility, and they were also inspiring, both for me, as a principal, and for my team. The fact that we shared ideas of involvement in the local community was a starting point for the charitable activities we carried out in our school in December.

Secondly, the specificity of the Volos region, at the interference between the sea and the mountains, with a wonderful landscape, the hospitality of the people of Agria, the charm of the traditional Greek village of Millies on Mount Pellion, made our stay even more enjoyable.

The meeting in Greece was certainly an example of good practice!

Teacher,
Maria Greabu



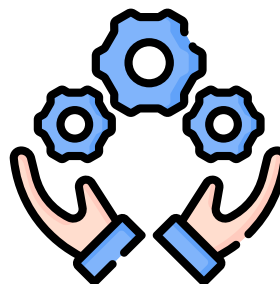
We participated, we learned, we applied in our community

My participation, as a teacher, to the C3 mobility of the Active Creative Enterprising Erasmus+ project, reinforced my belief that, when working together, great results appear and amaze people involved, and influence people around us.

This is what happened in this mobility. There was a great unity of beliefs, ideas, concepts emerging from the brilliant minds of both students and teachers from the host and participating countries, each of us being eager to share and “steal” ideas related to the theme of the meeting “Locally active” and volunteering in general. These encouraged me and my team to come back and involve more in our community. This is what we did in the following month. Supported by our school principal and teachers, our students organized a Christmas fair and they donated the money to people in need. We also, organized, a donation campaign, in which our school’s students donated unperishable food, clothes, toys, cleaning and personal hygiene products, dippers for the families with low income.

In conclusion, the project and all the activities and workshops we attended had a great impact upon us, in terms of involving more in our local community and raising the volunteering spirit among our students.

Teacher,
Anamaria Muthi





Newsletter

The official newsletter of the ACE Erasmus+Project

THE GREEK DAY

November 18th our tribute to Greece. After one week of study about geography and history of Greece our students started to perform some role plays about mythology. At the and they decided to connect our group to Greece by dancing. Traditional music and art activity compared with the Sicilian one. We had a day of music and dancing; the local media promoted our



FROM ITALY TO ROMANIA

Some impressions and feelings from Romania by Italian students:Giulio ,Lucrezia and Giulia

The classmates of 2B had an interview after the Romanian students exchange,here are some questions about it:

Angelo > How was the food in Romania? It was different and very special sometimes I liked it and sometimes it was not my favorite, but I know that is because I am not used to eat different food(Lucrezia)

Corrado> What kind of activity did you do? We visited many interesting places and museums(Lucrezi); We did some workshops about business that were interesting(Giulia); We had the opportunity to know a special job as Freelancer, it was interesting because it is a business and a creative activity. (Giulio)

Francesca>Which is your favorite place that you visited in Romania? The nuns monastery was very special to me because it is an unusual place and the nuns are very kind and warm. The place is unique we climbed up to the mountain and on the top of it we enjoyed a wonderful landscape. (Giulio)

I was impressed from the big Cross(Lucrezia)

Walter > How was the school?

It is big with many labs, we liked it.

Serena > How was this experience for you?

It isn't a normal trip but a strong changing in my way of thinking about others(Giulia)

A wonderful experience,I thank my school for the opportunity because I could face and exchange our different cultures. The fall down of stereotypes(Lucrezia)

Rosolini 14 January 2022

ONE AMAZING WEEK - LOCALLY ACTIVE

We shared the good practices and experiences with special people ,Agria was our home for one week and the factories and restaurants and people gave us always warm exciting feelings.Among all the meetings I was impressed by the Theater of shadows.I am working to do the same in our school in the next months. I feel richer of new teaching strategies and methods but also richer of new friends.
Marinella Giuca (teacher)

We believe it was an unforgettable experience that help you grow. Thank to our school and Erasmus action for this experience.
Annamaria, Gaia, Giuseppe Vincenzo(students)





MY FIRST BUSINESS N.2 AND LOCALLY ACTIVE.

Here we are, almost ready to go to Nasaud in Romania. We had some activities at school about our first business.

Our students did a marketing survey about what kind of gifts do people buy for Christmas presents.

They understood that people prefer small and cheap objects that are eco-friendly and connected with green. They decided to re-use bottles and pots that they decorated and the shapes that bloom.

Some seeds of flowers that are put inside recycled paper that has been watered and put into different small cookie cutters or recycled small cutters.

They have been sold during Christmas markets

Before selling the objects they calculated the basic expenses (raw material + promotional action) to understand how much should they sell each object for a minimum gain.

Our students organized the market and the promotion of the event by local media and socials.

The money earned with the day of solidarity was donated to „Still I Rise”.



C3 MEETING IN GREECE AND OUR POINT OF VIEW!

The Erasmus meeting was a both enjoyable and full of entertaining activities experience. We got to socialize with wonderful people and learn about European culture. Making new friends was by far the most exciting part of that meeting. Some of the activities we got to enjoy were visiting the well known "Athanassakio" Archeological museum. We went to plenty of restaurants, located around our area; we got to admire the beauty and healing properties behind the Greek herbs by visiting the Essential Oil Company Filippou where we tasted a delicious herbal tea. Moreover, all the kids were gifted with many goodies! We had also planned to go horse riding at Milies but due to the horrible weather we eventually decided not to. It was truly raining cats and dogs! But that didn't stop us from having fun and dancing at a nearby tavern while enjoying traditional food such as "spanakopita" (spinach pie) and wild pork. Kids from every single county, including ourselves, will keep these memorable moments close to our hearts. We consider this experience precious and really heartwarming. These moments will remain unforgettable!

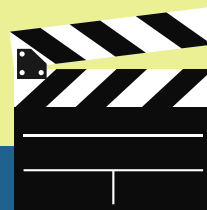
Evi Papadimitriou and Evangelia Oikonomou

NEW YEAR'S AND OTHER WISHES ..!

As we all know the last couple of years haven't been the easiest we have lived. The Covid pandemic meant, and still means, rules, restrictions, feelings of uncertainty. The meeting we organised in Greece, during which we followed of course all the rules in order to stay safe and healthy, has been a break away from the pandemic routine. Some Greek students and teachers, who unfortunately didn't travel to Romania in September, experienced their first non-virtual Erasmus meeting. The fact that we could finally meet kids and colleagues of our partner schools in real time and space not only gave us joy (among knowledge and cultural exchange) but also an optimistic perspective of the future. It felt like we slowly come closer to the end of the pandemic. As the C3 meeting was near the end of the year I would like to keep this optimistic feeling that we will continue the implementation of the remaining trips in 2022!

Happy New Year to everyone !

Irini Kafida, Gymnasio Agria, Programme coordinator of Greece





WE PARTICIPATED, WE LEARNED, WE APPLIED IN OUR COMMUNITY

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Teacher,
Anamaria Muthi

FOR THE NEW YEAR 2022

On behalf of the entire Erasmus + team, we wish all readers that 2022 would be better than the previous year in every aspect. We hope that it will be possible to achieve our goals, intentions and dreams. We want students from Polish, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Romanian schools to benefit from our work. We also wish ourselves and you that normality would come back to our everyday life, and would not be a dream luxury.

Editorial team of Newsletter

