

Erasmus+ Multilateral School Partnership Project Xenophobia – Musical Movement Fighting Fear 2017-20 Minutes

1. International learning and teaching activity (C1)

2. Transnational project meeting (M2)

Hosting school: Gymnasio in Kato Lechonia

Participants: students and teachers from Germany, Netherlands, Poland and La Reunion, group of teachers and students from Gymnasium Kato Lechonia

Saturday / Sunday: 21. /22.04.2018

After a joint city tour through Volos and the warm reception of the guest students by their hosts, a presentation of the Greek pupils took place on Sunday. All the students, teachers and parents took part in a round dance in the schoolyard, followed by singing and dancing. It was followed by language learning games, and finally there was a dinner organized by the parents in the schoolyard.

Monday: 23.04.

On Monday there was an excursion to beautiful Meteora with a short hike and visit of the monasteries with many group photos, while the tendency from selfie to staged group photo showed up.

Tuesday: 24.04.

Tuesday began with a joint dance and presentations of the students (school performance and musical contribution). The images and music / dance videos brought along were evaluated by the pupils in two procedures. An international student group with five participants (one from each participating country) developed a rough storyline under the direction of Hans Tobel. After the presentation of the results by the students, the song "Don't be afraid" by the school choir of Kato Lechonia and the song "Oh, Maloja", a contribution from the group from La Reunion, were practiced with all.

Wednesday: 25.04.

On Wednesday, teachers of all participating schools offered four workshop stations (dance, rhythm, song and drama) in which the students participated in multilingual mixed groups. In the late afternoon, we made a trip to Makrinitisa (Mount Pelion) and enjoyed the view of the bay.

Thursday: 26.04.

On Thursday during the rehearsals for the evening event and the art workshops, the coordinators met(M2). In Poland and the Netherlands, there seems to be a problem with the fact that the mobilities are only for students and that there are no travel costs for teachers. Because the application form made it impossible to divide the AUL mobilities into teachers and learners, we take it for granted that the teachers are also participants, especially as they are significantly active in shaping, learning and teaching the program to the same extent as the pupils.

Especially during the project meetings, the differences in dealing with questions and criticisms show up. There is some uncertainty as some of the budget reporting processes are unclear. Although all coordinators have participated in the training, billing/controlling is not always in the hands of the coordinators (Poland). The large differences in income, the cost of living and the claims are hardly apparent. Linguistic barriers are still difficult. Also, the long text contributions could not be evaluated by the students. Here the solution was found, to judge these only at the origin schools and to present them publicly in the following meetings. The school structures brought in were compared and commented.

In the musical and artistic work, the strengths of the two faculties were evident, which largely do without language and enable everyone to participate equally. On Thursday, in addition to the contributions of the individual school groups, a common choir singing in English, a double choir with a French song, a joint dance and a mixed teacher choir performed on stage. The presentation of the shadow-theatre of the Greek group impressed the audience of parents, teachers and representatives, as well as the exhibition of brought and locally created works of art. Thursday was ended with a dinner for all concerned and the host families.

Friday: 27.04.

On Friday, once again, the coordinators met for the detailed planning of the meeting in Poland. Agenda points were determined and a trip to the memorial site of the concentration camp Auschwitz was decided.

The guest students attended classes and the teachers of the German and Polish groups taught Music and Spanish in the Greek classes.

The learning, teaching and training activity in Greece has been a wonderful start of our project thanks to the heartily and open-minded hosts, colleagues and students. The music teachers had fun in playing together and even more together with the students in taking up every impulse to involve all participants. The Mediterranean climate did its best to keep us warm and together.

Epilogue:

The students who travelled with our team, as well as us teachers, learned a lot about Greece, making music and dealing with fears. They were warmly received. Especially for A., who came to our school at the age of 13 as an unaccompanied refugee from Syria two years ago, the trip and the stay was a special experience. He enjoyed traveling unmolested to and from Greece as member of a German travel team and with a toleration document.

He was telling his mates about his experience as a boat refugee in Athens for the first time. He felt very comfortable with the familiar sounds and smells of the South and was lovingly received in his host family. The task of the photojournalist, who is responsible for the documentation in our team, he has taken very conscientious.

The pictures of children on the run, violence and death on the Mediterranean Sea of the Shadow Theatre has hit him and he left the hall, followed by his mates and a teacher. He could talk about feeling like this ball in his hand, kicked, beaten and as one of many used for political agitation. He could listen as F. said that it is important for others who do not know anything to understand. And there we were with these sensitivities and disturbances and danced a little the new known steps.

