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**GENIKO LYKEIO PARALIAS PATRON**

**Erasmus+ Project: Schule macht Nachhaltigkeit - Nachhaltigkeit macht Schule**

**(A lesson in sustainability: Make your school greener and yourself too)**

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# **Report of the 2nd Short-term exchange of groups of pupils**

## “Studying the past and the present, looking at a sustainable future”

The second exchange of groups of pupils of the Erasmus+ project Schule macht Nachhaltigkeit - Nachhaltigkeit macht Schule / A lesson in sustainability: Make your school greener and yourself too was held at Geniko Lykeio Paralias in Patras, Greece, from 3rd to 7th October 2022 with the attendance of 8 teachers and 20 students from the partner schools Daniel Theysohn IGS Waldfischbach-Burgalben, Germany, IIS L. da Vinci-Nitti, Potenza, Italy, Traku Gimnazija, Trakai, Lithuania and IES Pablo Picasso, Malaga, Spain, along with 15 students and 7 teachers from the hosting school.

The Official Opening of the exchange took place on **Monday, October 3rd**, in the school's amphitheater, with greetings from the Headteacher, Mr. Athanasios Lionas, the Director of Secondary Education of Achaia Prefecture, Mrs. Eugenia Pierri, and the Head of Environmental Education of Achaia Mrs. Ioanna Papaioannou. The students of the hosting school welcomed the partners with a short musical event and danced "sirtaki". After listening to the European anthem, the partners introduced themselves and presented their regions and schools via videos and presentations.

Students from all partner schools prepared this mobility by working remotely in international teams. Team members met for the first time in person at the official opening of the exchange and presented their work on the "Sustainability Travel Guide". Afterwards, the students of GEL Paralias guided the partners around the school grounds, presenting the sustainability agenda.

After lunch, the group visited the Cultural site of the «Old Slaughterhouse of Patras» and participated in a workshop to create "alternative carnival masks" with recyclable materials. The activity combined environmental awareness, reuse of materials, imagination and creativity.

On **Tuesday, October 4th**, the schedule included a trip to the “Kotychi – Strofylia National Wetlands Park”, protected under the Ramsar Convention and part of the Natura 2000 Network. Following a hiking trail inside the forest the group learned that this particular forest has an ecological impact throughout Europe as it is a habitat for rare birds and other species of fauna and flora. Οbservation of the lagoon “Prokopos” with telescopes and bird watching followed. The visit was combined with a green act, cleaning part of Kalogria beach, participating in the **#EUBeachCleanup Campaign**.

Lunch took place at "Alykes", a small fishing village in a bay of the Gulf of Patras, where there is a fishing fleet that feeds the local market with fresh fish all year round. Lunch included fresh, local and seasonal food at a traditional fish tavern.

**Wednesday 5th October** was dedicated to “Highlighting the Cultural Heritage with respect for the natural Environment”. There was a visit to the Mycenaean Park in “Voudeni”, visiting the ancient cemetery with chamber tombs spread on a large green slope, walking among hills, olive trees, flowers and a vineyard, visiting the ruins of the ancient settlement. Next, followed a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Patras, watching audio-visual material entitled "Walk the Route”, an acquaintance with selected exhibits from the Museum's collections and the history of Patras, as a Mediterranean port. A Visit to the Castle of Patras took place, enjoying the panoramic view, walking to the city-center, stopping at important archaeological and historical points (Roman Odeon, Roman theater, Church of St Andreas). The group had a picnic lunch at “Dasyllio” (a grove on a hill inside the city) enjoying the nature.

**Thursday 6th October:** Trip to Ancient Olympia, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Guided tour to the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the Gymnasium, the Altar of Goddess Hera, where the Olympic Flame is lit every four years for the Summer modern Olympics, and the Stadium, where the ancient Olympic games were held. There, students ran a race and the winner was crowned with an olive wreath. The participants were informed about the ideals of the ancient Olympic games, such as peace, unity and honor, the same ideals the European Union stands for. Visit to the Archeological Museum of Olympia and the Archimedes Museum (Museum of Ancient Technology) followed.

**Friday 7th October** included outdoor teaching during a visit at the “Park of educational activities of the Municipality of Patras”. The first activity under the title “Find the connection” was a case study and role playing on the environmental crisis and climate change. Students work in international groups and presented their conclusions to the teachers. The second activity was entitled “Shape your message"; students created mosaics using recyclable plastic lids.

There was a project meeting where the teachers discussed and planned the next project activities (Erasmus days, Mobility in Germany).

An afternoon visit to ACHAIA CLAUSS, the oldest winery in Greece founded in 1861, followed. There, a guided tour of the "Barrelatiko" museum with the old oak barrels took place. The traditional process of making a wooden barrel was described. We were impressed to learn that they preserve for research purposes, in a natural way and without electricity, two centuries old still drinkable wine.

In addition to the students and teachers, members of the local community also attended the **Closing Ceremony**. Children of the local Cultural Association danced traditional dances and the President of the Parents' Association greeted the partners by offering local products as gifts. This was followed by the awarding of certificates and a party with music and dance from all the partner countries. The farewell dinner included dishes from Greek traditional and Mediterranean cuisine offered by the students' parents and the Parents' Association.

## How mobility benefited participants

The mobility included various educational activities aimed at reinforcing the importance of sustainability and seeking new ways for a sustainable future, experiencing contact with nature and discovering the knowledge of the past through tradition and history.

The evaluation of the mobility certified that the participants benefited in many ways. The students showed interest in all activities and worked constructively, in a climate of acceptance, with mutual respect, using their imagination and creativity and gaining new learning experiences. They worked in different environments and were asked to handle problematic situations by improving their negotiation skills and acquiring problem-solving skills. Furthermore, they improved their communication skills in English.

But mostly the students improved their intercultural skills through interaction with their peers from other countries. They exchanged information about their countries, had fun, laughed, celebrated together, made new friendships thus increasing their social, linguistic and cultural skills. At the end of the exchange, they parted in a highly emotional atmosphere.

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