



School to School Strategic Partnership n° 2014-1-FR01-KA201-002536_1

This project is funded with the support of the European Commission

FIRST TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING

1st Gymnasium of Sitia Theotokopoulou 2 GR-72300 Sitia, Crete, GREECE

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Monday 19th to Friday 23rd January 2015

All partner institutions attended.

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING

SITIA, CRETE



Monday 19th to Friday 23rd

January 2015

Sunday 18th January : ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS					
Monday 19th January	09h30 to 10h00 10h00 to 11h00 11h00 to 11h30 11h30 to 12h10 12h10 to 12h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reception of partners in the hosting institution - Meeting with the school staff - Visit of the hosting school - Brief presentation of the partner institutions involved in the project - General presentation of the project by the coordinator - Basic rules for a successful partnership: Collaborative work, report 	12h30	14h00 to 15h30 Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launching the project: teams, equipment, local dissemination - Erasmus corner in the partner institutions - First questionnaires: making, submission, synthesis-locally and at European level 15h30 to 16h00 Coffee / Internet break 16h00 to 17h30 Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project website, building, managing, contribution, costs, dissemination 	20h00
Tuesday 20th January	09h00 to 10h30 10h30 to 11h00 11h00 to 12h30	Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local and national partner schools: involvement and feedbacks - Workshops, groups of students, their selection Coffee / Internet break Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICT Workshop in Lithuania for teachers: dates and programme, report 	12h30	14h00 to 15h30 Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICT Workshops for pupils: organisation and timespan - Class blog: creation, use Coffee / Internet break Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital presentations about each other's country: content, undertaking, planning for year one 	20h00
Wednesday 21st January	09h00 to 10h30 10h30 to 11h00 11h00 to 12h30	Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language Camp in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: dates, age of pupils, program, evaluation tools Coffee / Internet break Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language Camp in FYRM : organization, costs, report 	12h30	14h00 to 15h30 Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transnational Project Meeting in Romania : dates, organisation, report - Communication: means and frequency: mail, Skype, Facebook 	20h00
Thursday 22nd January	09h00 to 10h30 10h30 to 11h00 11h00 to 12h30	Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaboration of evaluation tools for oral competences Coffee / Internet break Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaboration of evaluation tools for oral competences 	12h30	14h00 to 15h30 Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erasmus week in the partner institutions : dates, organization, activities 	20h00
Friday 23rd January	09h00 to 10h30 10h30 to 11h00 11h00 to 12h30	Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget: organization, management and control Coffee / Internet break Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget: organization, handling and control 	12h30	14h00 to 15h30 Project meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility Tool Certificate of Attendance	20h00
Saturday 24th January : DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS					

VISIT OF THE GREEK SCHOOL

The first meeting of the participants took place in **1st Junior High School of Sitia**, where the principal warmly welcomed the visitors and explained how enthusiastic teachers, pupils and parents, were about the project.

Then, the Greek pupils presented their school in English. Afterwards, they sang Greek folk songs, performed some traditional dances and invited all visitors to learn typical local dances.



After, two pupils performed an act from the opera *Erotokritos* – English lyrics.

Finally, they offered visitors traditional Greek food cooked by them in the cooking workshop.



PRESENTATION OF 1st JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF SITIA

During the time visitors spent in Crete, and particularly during the visit of the Greek school, visitors exchanged very often with their Greek colleagues. Discussions and exchanges of practice were enriching and allowed visitors to get familiar with the Greek school system, the school organisation and the pedagogical tools that are used by the Greek teachers.

Location and equipment

Sitia 1st Junior High School was established in 1939. Over the years, it has been expanded and renovated but it remains an old building. It is located in an urban area, practically at the top of the amphitheatric city of Sitia, with view on the city and the sea. It was established in 1939. Over the years, it has been expanded and renovated

It is housed with the second Junior High School classrooms, the offices, the library are on the lab as well as the computer science labs are on the building, next to the track and the two manifestation hall and celebrations take place in the gym.



of Sitia in the same two floor building. The first floor, the technology lab, the chemistry the ground floor. The gym is separated from basketball fields. The school has no



It has got 9 classrooms, three of them with projectors, a small library, two extra-classrooms, a computer lab, a gym, two courts with basketball fields and a gymnasium. It has two administrative offices and an office available for all the teachers. There is a Wi-Fi and there are three extra moveable projector systems in the school.



The Staff

The staff includes the Headmaster (male), the Deputy (male), 1 secretary (male) and 28 teachers, mostly women.

Pupils

The school caters for 194 pupils (96 girls and 98 boys).

Parents Committee

It meets occasionally but it is constantly in touch with the headmaster and the teachers and cooperates with them. The presidium consists of the president, the vice-president, the burser and two members. It is financially independent and funded exclusively by parental donations at the beginning of every school year: 15 euros per pupil. It supports school activities such as visits, hosting visitors and guests, pupils' prizes and even helps, when needed, under-privileged pupils participate in trips and visits.

Organization

The school has 3 levels: A, B, C with pupils from 12 to 15 years old. It comes after Primary School (6 levels – from 6 to 12 years-old) and precedes Senior High School (3 levels – from 15 to 18 years old).

Sitia's 1st Junior High School has got three classes per level. All three levels have got 35 hour-lessons a week (5*7) on a variety of subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Modern Greek (Literature + Language), Ancient Greek (from the original + from translation), History, Art, Religion (optional for heterodox students) Music, Technology, Computer Science, Physical Education, Home Economics, Social Education and Foreign Languages.

English Classes this year in the specific school comprise elementary and advanced sub-levels for levels A and B – 2 hours a week.



Pupils can choose between French and German (no levels) as a second foreign language – also 2 hours a week. An hour per week is, according to curriculum, dedicated to projects selected and designed by pupils and a teacher. Pupils may also choose to attend extra activities held after class once a week for two hours among the following:

Environmental Team, Literature Team, Francophonie Team, Choir and Drama team.

The school year has got 3 semesters:

- 1st: September to December,
- 2nd: January to March
- 3rd: April to June

Grades are given to parents at the end of each semester by the teachers and the headmaster, with the last semester comprising the grades pupils got in the final exams of the year (end of May- mid June). Not all subjects are examined in the finals: Music, Art, Physical Education, Home Economics, Technology and Computer Science (for A and B Class)

Working Hours – Schedule

All lessons take place in the morning from 8:15 to 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The duration is the same for all lessons, 45 minutes, with breaks between them from 5 to 20 minutes.

School Holidays

Come Back: 11th September

Christmas Holidays: 23rd December to 7th January

Easter Holidays: 2 weeks – moveable feast

National Celebrations: 2 days

School/ Education Holiday: 17th November

Holy Spirit Holiday: Moveable

Green Monday: Moveable

Labour Day: 1st of May

Particularities of the School

Teachers working hours vary from 18 to 23 hour-lessons a week according to the years of service. The recent increase of two hours in 2013 obliges teachers to eke their hours in other schools and move from school to school and even back on the same day. Only a small number of teachers, 11, have full working hours in the school.

Absences

When a teacher is absent, schedule is re-adjusted the day before and uploaded on the website so as to have pupils dismissed earlier. If this is not possible, they stay at school under the teachers' responsibility but not in the classroom. Pupils never stay in the classroom during the breaks. Parents receive an SMS notice every time a pupil is absent or leaves school without permission. They are also regularly informed by post mail, and particularly when a pupil goes beyond a specific absences limit.

Penalties Digital record of penalties and absences is kept.

Books – Photocopies

All books and photocopies are provided to students for free. They have to buy extra materials only.

Canteen

A small canteen provides snacks and refreshments during the breaks.

PROJECT MEETINGS

In the afternoon, the partners met at the Town Hall where the coordinator officially launched the project and made again a general presentation of it. After that, the national coordinators presented their schools.

The project coordinator asked national coordinators to present what they have done in their schools so far.

All the national coordinators confirmed that:

- they have build their team,
- they translated the project in their national language,
- they have made the Erasmus corner that will be updated through the three years of the project,
- they have disseminated the project in their schools and local communities (they have all discussed with the teachers, parents and local authorities),
- they have built their target groups according to the selection criteria agreed on during the preparatory visit,
- they all confirmed they have got the required equipment to perform the activities including an Internet connection,
- they have integrated an extra teaching hour into the school curriculum to be able to undertake the project activities

During the next day, partners worked together and :

A- planned the activities, agreed on the procedures and fixed the deadlines,

B- created the evaluation grid for oral communication skills to be used locally during foreign language classes all through the school year and during the video conferences between European pupils.

COORDINATORS



A.1. Each partner school will create a special page on their school website dedicated to the dissemination of the project as soon as possible. A link to the official project's website will be put on it.



A.2. The first common questionnaire will be submitted to learners, teachers and parents from the 9th to 13th February. Then a local synthesis will be made in agreement with the synthesis grid elaborated during the project meeting. After, the syntheses will be sent to the Turkish partner who will prepare an over-all synthesis between 16th February and 6th March and upload it on the project website before 9th March.



A.3. The ICT workshop will be organized in Lithuania from the 16th to 20th of March 2015. Three teachers from every partner institution will attend it. It is meant to help teachers to become familiar with various digital and ICT teaching materials and learn how to incorporate them into their daily pedagogical practice. The Lithuanian team presented their plan regarding the organisation of the meeting and answered the partners' questions related to accommodations and transport.



A.4. The Czech partner will write a report about this short-term joint staff training event and upload it on the project website.



A.5. Each class group will create a blog before 1st of March 2015. This tool will be used locally in each partner institution so that pupils can get their assignments there. They will have a login and a password. The teachers will regularly ask them to give a spoken point of view on different modern topics. The students will have to record themselves and download their homework on the blog. Then, during the classes, they will listen together to the recordings and exchange about them. During the conversations, the teachers will help their students improve their spoken skills and enrich their vocabulary.



A.6. Learners in each partner institution will prepare a quick e-presentation in English about their school and city and uploaded it on the project website before 31st March 2015.



A.7. By 31st March, each partner institution must have found 5 schools in their country to download e-lessons from the project website, use them during language classes and leave their feedbacks.



A.8. Pupils in each partner institution will prepare a short video with the most common and useful idiomatic expressions in their national language and upload it on the project website before 15th April 2015. The videos will be used in the partner institutions for the linguistic preparation of pupils before the language camp. They will also do a research on internet about the area where the first language camp will take place. They will also have an assignment about the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, its customs and traditions in preparation of the language camp.

A.9. Each partner institution will organize an Erasmus week between 6th and 26th April 2015. The parents will be invited to take part in the activities organized by the teachers during this week. The reports and the pictures will be uploaded by each project team on the website of the project by 26th April 2015.

A.10. The first language camp will be organized in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 10th to 20th May 2015 in the Mountain House of Mihajlovo, Kozuf planina, 29 Noemvri bb, 1430 Kavard

website : www.mihajlovo.com email: mihajlovokavadarci@yahoo.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/mihajlovokavadarci](https://www.facebook.com/mihajlovokavadarci) ☎ : 0038972243550 Manager : **M. Ljupco Gligorov**

A.11. The Lithuanian partner will write a report about the language camp and upload it on the project website.

A.12. The first video-conference between pupils from each two countries involved in the project (France and Romania, Spain and Czech Republic, Greece and Lithuania, Turkey and FYR of Macedonia) will be organized from 25th to 29th May. The e-presentation about each other will be made and sent to the other partner by end of February 2015.

A.13. Video conferences between national coordinators will take place via Skype every month so as to follow up the undertaking of activities in each partner institution.

A.14. The coordinator asked all national coordinators to open an account on E-twinning desktop as soon as possible so that we can use this portal to disseminate the project's productions tools as soon as possible.

A.14. The second transnational project meeting will take place in Romania from Monday 8th to Friday 12th June 2015. During this project meeting, visitors will attend some local classes and learn about Romanian school system. Then, they will themselves give lessons created with digital materials to the local classes and get their feedbacks. The project coordinator and the national coordinators will meet and evaluate the first year of the project and plan the activities for the second year including the logo contest. Changes and improvements will also be made if necessary.

A.15. The Spanish partner will write a report about this transnational meeting and upload it on the project website.

A.16. Each national coordinator will supply the coordinator with a first-year report by the 1st June 2015.

A.17. The coordinator will write the first mid-term evaluation report and fill in Mobility Tool by 30th June 2015.

A.18. All created documents, evaluation tools used within the partnership, and reports about Transnational Project Meetings and Learning Teaching Training Activities for adults as well as pupils must be uploaded on the project website and Mobility Tool when the latter will be accessible.

B. Pupils' assessment will form an integral part of our partnership. We consider it as an essential tool for improving the quality of our teaching. It will be performed by foreign language teachers and will take a variety of forms and will use different assessment instruments and methods, formative or summative, and results can be used to decide upon improvements. So, the evaluation grid for oral communication skills will be used to evaluate :

- The ability of pupils to participation voluntarily during foreign language classes,
- The ability of pupils to improvise on simple everyday life situations,
- The ability of pupils to perform short sketches, interviews, role-plays, news and weather forecast presentations,
- The ability of learners to speak fluently in a more authentic and spontaneous way (use of idiomatic expressions), they will be recorded for evaluation,
- The ability of pupils to exchange more freely with their European counterparts during the video conferences that will take place between two countries at a time.

During the following days the project coordinator presented the importance of the collaborative work and suggested to the participants to split up into three small mixed groups.

C. The first mixed group created all the necessary questionnaires and synthesis grids to launch the common activities. This group built the first common questionnaires to be submitted to involved pupils, their parents and teachers. teachers, and the synthesis grids for these questionnaires.

The teachers will be questioned as regards to their communication skills in foreign languages, the frequency at which they use ICT tools during their lessons and their expectations. They will also be asked to indicate to what extent the participation of their school to the European project "Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class" could contribute to the development of their students' emotional abilities, their communication competences in foreign languages, their abilities to use the new communication technologies, and whether I-TALC could promote their school image in the local, national and international community and increase the parents' satisfaction as regard to the quality of educational system.

The students will be questioned as regard to the countries they have visited, the foreign languages they would like to study and why, and their communication skills in foreign languages. They will also be asked to indicate in which way their participation to the Erasmus+ program could be useful in their future life and to what extent their participation to the European project „Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class" could help them develop their oral communication competences in foreign languages and abilities to use the new communication technologies.

The parents will be questioned regarding their children's communication skills in foreign languages and the frequency of using the Internet at home. They will as well be asked to indicate to what extent the participation of their children to the European project „Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class" could contribute to the development of their children's emotional abilities, their communication skills in foreign languages, their abilities to use the new communication technologies and whether they consider these competences could help their children to easily find a job in the future.

All the questionnaires will be uploaded by the coordinator on the project website <http://www.i-talc.eu> and on Yahoo Groups by 2nd February 2015.

D. The second mixed group built in detail all activities that will be held daily during the language camp that will take place in in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 10th to 21st May 2015, established some rules for pupils and determined who is responsible for carrying out each activity.

All the children that will attend the language camp must be aged between 14 to 15 years-old.

During the language camp pupils will be evaluated in agreement with the “European Assessment Grid for spoken English”. The last day of the camp they will be asked to fill in a questionnaire to measure their satisfaction as regards to the activities that will be carried out in the camp. During the language camp, pupils will also fill in a travelling booklet in which they will express their thoughts, emotions, feelings and describe their best memories.

Before starting the activities the pupils will be split up into eight groups (10 children for each group): they will be invited to choose their favourite colour and they will be distributed in groups according to it (all pupils who chose yellow will form a group and so on). Then, teachers will present the rules of behaviour in the camp house and invite pupils to comply with them (these rules will be hang on a wall at the entrance of the camp). Afterwards, pupils will be invited to work in groups and draw a logo for their team.

Every morning the teachers will meet to discuss again all details regarding the each day activities. In the evening they will analyse the way all activities, including language classes, were undertaken and the way pupils took part in them so that they can make improvements or changes if necessary.

During the language camp, teachers from every country will give foreign language classes (English, French, Spanish, Turkish, German and Sign Language). Eco classes will also be organized in open space by the Spanish teachers. Pupils will participate to practical activities to protect nature (they will clean the forest, plant flowers, trees and so on).

Creative workshops will be organized by the Romanian team, different sport competitions will be organized by the Czech team. A European culinary evening will be held : every national team, pupils and teachers, will organise a cooking workshop in the afternoon and prepare some of their traditional food. All dishes made will be shown and introduced by pupils during an evening exhibition. Then, all participants will taste the food and party together. Another European evening will be organized where pupils from every country will present national traditional dances and sing folk songs. Pupils, coordinated by the Greek and the French teachers, will improvise sketches on different topics. The team from FYR of Macedonia will organize cultural trips to visit the surroundings and some museums to show visitors the culture, the customs and the traditions of their country. A farewell party, including a campfire, will be organized the last evening.

E. The third mixed group made the assessment grid that will be used to evaluate pupils' attitudes and oral communication skills during the language camp. This group also created a travelling booklet for pupils and a feedback questionnaire to be submitted to them the last day of the language camp.

Pupils that will attend the language camp will be evaluated as to their ability to establish social interactions, to mix and interact spontaneously with other European pupils, to introduce themselves in public, to talk about their family and friends, to present their country, traditions, customs and school, to discuss every day matters, to ask and give information, to react to a proposal, to understand a message in order to accomplish a task, to make an oral announcement, act a short sketch, present the weather forecast for the day, lead or answer an interview.

The travelling booklet will be kept up to date by pupils: they will fill in all required information about their travel, the transportation means, the route to get to FYR of Macedonia, describe activities, write the names of their new friends, describe their emotions, their best memories etc.

The feedback questionnaire will be submitted to pupils the last day of the camp so that they can give their points of view on the language camp: the kind of activities, the organisation, the rules inside the camp, relationships with teachers and other European pupils, things they enjoyed or disliked, the impact of the camp on their communication skills, personal self-esteem and self-confidence, things they missed. They will also be invited to give recommendations for the next camps.

At the end of each workshop, the three groups met and presented their documents. Then, the coordinator asked all participants to give their point of view. Participants made suggestions and changes were made when necessary. Finally, produced documents and tools were approved by all partners.

During the last day, the project coordinator presented all details and information related to the budget management and its control and answered partners' questions related to this point.

The Greek team presented the website of the project to the national coordinators and showed everyone how to upload all productions related to the project. Each national coordinator received a log in and a password. <http://www.i-talc.eu>

Erasmus+

Time remaining to the Workshop in Lithuania
042 : 01 : 57 : 06
Days Hrs Min Sec

Post Calendar
February 2015
M T W T F S S
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28
« Jan

Teaching with TECHNOLOGY

Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class
I-TALC

Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class is a three-year ERASMUS+ K2A strategic school partnership that involves junior secondary schools from Czech Republic, France, Greece, FYRoM, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

This partnership deals with the use of innovative technologies in teaching and evaluating foreign languages, particularly spoken skills. It intends to ensure our learners access to innovative learning methods in a more stimulating and engaging class.

On the one hand, the major goals of our partnership are to enhance our learners' motivation and investment in learning foreign languages and allow them to develop their communication competences. On the other hand, the project aims at offering our pupils an opportunity to get to know their European neighbors and their cultures, and thus, help them build their European citizenship.

To hit our objectives we have shared tasks amongst all of us according to each other's experience and competences. We agreed to, first, compare our teaching methods and exchange our practices. Then, combine our know-how to create innovative and challenging E-lessons using smart phones and tablets. Besides, a three-day ICT workshop will be organized for teachers. Moreover, pupils from all partner schools will participate in various transnational meetings, and will attend a ten-day intensive language camp that will be organized during the second year.

As a result, this partnership will not only help our learners to acquire new communication skills and broaden their future professional perspectives.

Recent Posts
Greek Erasmus+ Corner
Presentation of the 1st Junior High School of Sitia
Spanish Erasmus+ Corner
Romanian Erasmus+ Corner
Lithuanian Erasmus+ Corner
Rehearsal for the reception of the partners in Sitia
Czech Team's Erasmus+ Corner
What about YT videos?
Schedule of the 1st Transnational Meeting in Crete
AnswerGarden: What does english mean to you?

Recent Comments
Fousteri Sofia on Lithuanian Erasmus+ Corner
Fousteri Sofia on Romanian Erasmus+ Corner
Fousteri Sofia on Spanish

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The Greek partner offered us an interesting cultural program to discover the Crete history, the customs, traditions and religion of the people who live on this wonderful island.

During this interesting cultural journey we discovered **Cretan "kazanemata"** (distillation of the traditional raki) at Praisos, Eteocrates' ancient capital town, the descendands of the Minoans.

The kazanema season lasts from October till the end of November and takes place in legalized distilleries that local wine producers maintain in their cottages.

To enter into the world of the Cretan religion we stopped at Taplou Monastery that is located at the northeastern tip of Crete on the way to the Palm Forest of Vai. Its official designation is Panagia Akrotiriani, while the name Toplou dates from the Turkish period – top means "cannon" in Turkish. Taplou Monastery houses hosts 15th century icons which are of great artistic interest. The monastery owns a great deal of land and has great influence in the area. It produces excellent organic products such as wine, raki and olive oil.

Greece is the third country in the world concerning the production of olive oil, that's why the host country invited us to see a modern oil mill of Zakros. Sitia is famous for its extra-virgin olive oil which is a winner of top prizes in prestigious international competitions.



Then, our Greek colleagues invited us to discover the miracle of **Vai Palm Forest**, the largest in Europe (250,000 square meters).

In the end of the project meeting, our hosts organised a farewell dinner in a local tavern. Many Greek teachers including the principal were present. We enjoyed a typical Greek cuisine, tasted local wines and danced together on traditional Greek music.



DIFFICULTIES TO SOLVE

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's national agency hasn't supplied teachers involved with the required funds and imposes very difficult rules that prevent our colleagues from undertaking the scheduled activities on time and in good conditions. They can't even attend meetings as they can't pay for the trips themselves.

CONCLUSION

During this first transnational meeting in Greece, all the participants were involved enthusiastically in the activities proposed by the coordinator. All the details regarding the project were discussed again and the coordinator facilitated communication between the partners. The relaxed atmosphere created a trust climate that enabled all partners to ask questions about all aspects of the project and its implementation. The coordinator answered promptly all questions and clarified all the reported problems.

Partners worked efficiently and elaborated all the necessary documents and evaluation tools, planned all activities and easily agreed on the deadlines given by the coordinator for this first year of the project.



The host school organized an excellent meeting and did everything to make all partners feel at home. Everyone appreciated their hospitality and kindness.

This report was made within a collaborative work between the Romanian team and the project coordinator.

VANGHELIE Mihaela-Loredana, Romanian coordinator

BERDEI Anca-Roxana, Romanian teacher

"Saint Mary" Special Middle School for Hearing Impaired

Bucharest, Romania

Lahachmi MECHKOUK, coordinator

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