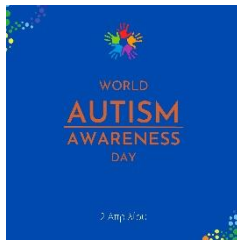


Embracing Inclusion: Erasmus Students Champion Tolerance in Support of Autism



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In the framework of our **ERASMUS+KA210** program entitled "**Inclusion Under Tolerance**" with project code 2021-2-PT01-KA210-SCH-000048146, our school celebrated the World Autism Awareness Day in a very unique way.

In today's interconnected world, fostering inclusion and tolerance is paramount for building a society where every individual, regardless of their abilities or differences, feels valued and respected. In the spirit of this vision, students participating in our Erasmus project on "Inclusion under Tolerance" embarked on a meaningful journey to support individuals on the autism spectrum.

Led by the institution "**Merimna Paidiou Katerinis**" - "Care for the mentally disabled of Pieria", renowned for its commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of disabled persons, especially those with mental disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities, our students engaged in a walking campaign through the heart of our city.

[#merimnapaidiokaterinis](#) [#worldautismday](#) [#autismcampaign](#)

The bustling city square and the main paved street of our community served as the backdrop for this inspiring initiative. As our students walked side by side with individuals on the autism spectrum, they not only showed their solidarity but also became advocates for inclusivity and understanding.

Through this project, the values of inclusion and tolerance were ingrained in our students' hearts and minds in profound ways. Here's how:

Hands-On Experience: Walking alongside individuals with autism provided our students with firsthand experience in understanding their perspectives, challenges, and strengths. This direct interaction broke down stereotypes and fostered empathy and compassion.

Community Engagement: By taking part in a public campaign, our students actively contributed to the visibility of individuals with autism in our community. They demonstrated that everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and included, regardless of neurodiversity.

Education and Awareness: Through the collaborative efforts of "Merimna Paidiou Katerinis" and our Erasmus project, educational opportunities were created not only for our students but also for the broader community. The walking campaign served as a platform to raise awareness about autism and promote acceptance and understanding.

Promotion of Social Cohesion: Inclusion is not just about individuals with disabilities being part of society; it's about creating a society where everyone feels a sense of belonging. By actively participating in activities alongside individuals with autism, our students helped foster a sense of unity and belonging for all members of our community.

Long-Term Impact: The lessons learned through this experience will have a lasting impact on our students. Armed with a deeper understanding of inclusion and tolerance, they are empowered to become agents of change in their own communities, advocating for a more inclusive and equitable society.

In conclusion, the walking campaign organized as part of our Erasmus project exemplifies the transformative power of inclusion and tolerance. By coming together to support individuals on the autism spectrum, our students not only enriched their own lives but also contributed to the creation of a more compassionate and inclusive society for all. As we continue on our journey towards greater acceptance and understanding, let us remember that it is **through acts of solidarity and empathy that we truly embrace the diversity that makes us human.**



