



Our school, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary School of Rhodes, participated in the Erasmus+ European project with the code 2020-1-UK01-KA229-079003\_2 and title: "The Voices of the Earth", which is financed by the European Union. As hosting school, we welcomed representatives of our partner schools from England, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain and Turkey, from 27 to 31 March 2023, implementing the 4th mobility of the project.

Our project focuses on the goals of Sustainable Development, so that they may become an integral and valuable part of a global collective consciousness towards the future of the planet and the right of all people to live with dignity, justice and equality. The activities that were prepared by our school's pedagogical team were about the 11th goal, "Sustainable Cities and Communities: We create inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements" and aimed to strengthen our efforts to protect and preserve the world's cultural and natural heritage, which enriches the personal lives of all of us. The opening ceremony took place in the courtyard of our school, where, in her opening speech, the Principal of the school, Ms. Stouppi Tsambika, referred to the importance of both cultural heritage and sustainable cities. Afterwards, the students of our school and the teachers of the Erasmus+ team of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary School of Rhodes welcomed the 37 representatives (23 children and 14 teachers) of our partner schools. Our school's choir and our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade's students presented the custom of Helidona and gave to our guests flowers and constructions of various recyclable materials that they had prepared themselves, under the guidance of our Arts teacher, Mr. M. Moraitis. We continued with traditional dances by our students, prepared by our Physical Education teacher, Mr. A. Vetsikas, as well as traditional dances by all our partners. After that we had a song about recycling, written by

the students of the 5th grade and sung in English, together with all the guest children, under the guidance of our school's Music teacher, Mrs. A. Santoriniou. The Turkish team followed with a song of their own about the environment. We completed the first part of our activities, with a dance known and loved by all, the “Hasaposerviko”, which was danced by all the participants with great joy.

Our program continued with a visit to the Town Hall where we were welcomed by the deputy mayor Mr. Costas Taraslias and the public relations manager Ms. Maria Karabini. We had a guide of the City Hall; we were informed not only about the history and utilization of the space but also about the efforts and contribution of the Municipality to the sustainability of the island. At the end of our visit everyone received a gift from the Town Hall, offer of the Tourism Office. Each gift was translated to the language of the according team.

The first day was concluded with a guided tour of the Acropolis of Rhodes and the Ancient Stadium. At that magnificent location each team presented one traditional game. All the students participated to all the games with great joy.

On the second day we visited the Center for Environmental Education in Theologos, the Valley of Butterflies and finally the village of Psinthos, to taste the traditional Greek cuisine. The Erasmus+ team participated in the educational environmental program designed by the Pedagogical Team of KEPEA-KPE Petaloudon, entitled "The habitat of the butterfly valley" and included:

- Guided tour of the natural history museum
- Examination of insects
- Observation of a water sample under a microscope in the biology laboratory
- Walking – Guided tour – Recording -Photography of flora and fauna on the path
- Observation in the forest with magnifying glasses, binoculars and a telescope
- Listening to the sounds of the nature with laboratory instruments
- Identifying herbs in their natural surroundings
- Augmented reality application and mobile devices (QR & Blippar)

The third day our program included walking and sightseeing in Rhodes Town. We had an educational journey into the history and culture of Rhodes. More specifically, there was a guided tour of the Palace of the Grand Magister, the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes, the Folklore Museum, the Accommodations of the various countries on the Street of the Knights, a part of the Old Town as well as the New Agora. The enthusiasm of all our guests was great and they expressed it in a variety of ways.

The last day of hosting our partners started with an excursion to the Acropolis of Lindos, where the participants were impressed, not only by the landscape and the unique images before them but also by the very important and interesting historical and mythological elements that were presented to them by Mr. Spyros Syropoulos, a professor at the University of the Aegean, a friend of our school, who participated in our excursion. The last day was concluded with the awarding of Certificates of Participation to everyone, the offering of various commemorative gifts representative of our country and with a farewell celebration with music and dances in honor of all our guests. All our activities were completed with great success and in a climate of harmonious cooperation. Students from all the countries managed to get closer and develop friendly relationships, spending quality and creative time together, getting to know the customs of other countries and cultivating various skills. All participants enjoyed this creative journey, realizing the value of protecting and preserving the world's cultural and natural heritage that is a channel of communication and unites all people. This project was a life experience for all of us. Several classes of our school participated and collaborated in the preparation and implementation of our activities. It was a collective effort from the students and the teachers of our Erasmus+ team, which consists of the Principal and Legal Representative of the project, Ms. Stouppi Tsambika, the person in charge of communication and implementation of the European project KA2 Erasmus+, Ms. Galani Alexandra, Mr. Touliopoulos Fotios, Ms. Aslanidou Maria, Ms. Tsoukou Maria, Ms. Kassimi Maria and Mr. Panagiotidis Kyriakos.

We sincerely thank for their help and contribution to the implementation of our program: the Ephorate of Antiquities of Dodecanese for the permission to enter archaeological sites, the President of DOPAR, Mr. A. Koliadis for the usage of the Municipal Indoor Gymnasium "Venetoklio",

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In conclusion we must all reflect that our planet needs our help and this can only be done with substantial interventions and a change in the way we all think and live. Because only together we are able to...

The pedagogic group Erasmus+ 3rd Primary School of Rhodes

